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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 27, 2011 **MID & WEST KENT EDITION** Issue no 479

STRIKE

Thousands set to walk out in mass day of action

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT is bracing itself for one of the biggest days of industrial action in decades this week with fears it could mark the start of a winter of discontent.

Public sector staff, including teachers, health workers, council workers and border control staff, are set to stage a walk-out over changes to their pensions on Wednesday.

Two million public servants nationwide are expected to take part following strike ballots by trade unions, forcing schools to close and some public services to grind to a halt.

And with schools shut, it will also force thousands of parents in the private sector to take a day off to look after their children, prompting a major knock-on effect across the county.

Picket lines are being set up across Kent for union members taking part.

Government ministers said the strike could cost the economy £500m and urged staff to turn up to work instead of taking part in the action.

But general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Brendan Barber, warned it was only the beginning and that the walk-out could spark a series of crippling strikes unless the Government made a u-turn over pension reforms.

A UK Border Agency spokesman told

Continued on page 2

OPEN'S A BIG HITTER FOR KENT ECONOMY

WIN-WIN: Darren Clarke and the county cashed in on golf extravaganza **SEE INSIDE**

FOOD

Restaurant hit by cash woes

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips is the latest big name to be hit by the economic slump after it was confirmed he has had to reorganise his firm's finances to keep his flagship restaurant Thackeray's, in Tunbridge Wells, afloat. Other eateries he owns in the county are not affected. **PAGE 5**

ENTERTAINMENT

Stars flock to Dr Who event

FANS of cult TV show Doctor Who will be flocking to Tunbridge Wells in January as it hosts its very first convention dedicated to the Timelord. Stars of the show will attend, along with scriptwriters, to meet fans, sign autographs and help raise money for a local charity. **PAGE 21**

LIBRARIES

KCC hire firm for late books

KENT County Council is getting tough on people not returning library books or running up fines, by hiring a recovery firm to chase down outstanding payments. It comes as part of a crackdown on those who abuse the free service and in a bid to relieve the strain on libraries' finances. **PAGE 3**

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INSIDE

- News.....2-28
- Kent Remembered 31
- Comment/Feedback 32-33
- Business Week..... 37-39
- Keep Kent Working . 40-41
- Jobs & Notices.....42-51
- Sport..... 86-87

INSIDE Kent Weekend

- Interview 55
- Food and drink 57

LEISURE

Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 59-68
- Christmas .. 59-61, 64-65

HOMES

- Room to Improve.....70-71
- Property.....72-74

MOTORS

- Driving 77-85

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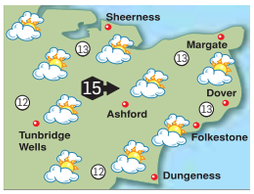

TODAY: Cloudy with rain. Brighter later on. Freshening winds. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with some clear spells. Chilly. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	–	–	12.00	6.8
Margate	00.30	4.8	13.01	5.0
St Mary's	05.37	6.0	18.01	5.7

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 11C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 9C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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LIBRARIES

Management firm to collect overdue books and fines for our libraries

By Marijke Cox
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COUNTY Hall chiefs have been forced to bring in a specialist recovery firm to try and retrieve unreturned library books and fines from borrowers.

Overdue charges for all unreturned items in the county up to November 23 amount to around £100,000.

A Kent County Council spokeswoman said the authority was anxious to ensure the return of books and other stock, such as CDs and DVDs, so they could be enjoyed by other people.

"From January 1 next year, we will be reintroducing a countywide stock recovery service," she said.

"We are going to be working with a company called Unique Management Services (UMS), which is a specialist firm that has worked with more than 1,100 library authorities in the UK and abroad to recover unreturned books and other items, as well as unpaid fines."

UMS says it uses a "gentle nudge" process to retrieve unreturned books and fines, which the company claims is "effective, yet gentle enough to maintain patron goodwill".

"Libraries are most benefited by recovering materials," said UMS.

"Library items are typically more costly and time-consuming to replace, and cash payment for items may not fully reimburse the library for the effort. Our contacts prompt the return of long overdue items and payment of fines and fees."

The county's worst offender for not returning books is Margate, followed by Maidstone.

KCC does not write off unreturned books and instead relies on reminder notices to push borrowers to return the stock. But with help from UMS, the council hopes to see an increase in returned goods.

The spokeswoman added: "We would like to remind our customers that they can renew their loans 24/7 online through www.kent.gov.uk/libs or by calling our contact centre on 08458 247200."

MISSING: Unreturned books can cost the library more than their cover price

Measures put in place to keep county moving on strike day

Continued from front page

us a full contingency plan was in place to protect borders at the Port of Dover and Channel Tunnel in Folkestone.

He said civil servants across Government were being approached to see if they would undergo necessary training to operate border controls to fill in for absent workers.

"The security of the UK border remains our top priority and we are exploring all options to ensure we minimise any disruption caused by planned union action," he said.

A Kent spokesman for teachers' union the NASUWT said members had voted overwhelmingly for industrial action.

General secretary Chris Keates said: "Teachers have been faced with a rising tide of excessive workload and a series of attacks on their profession, including unjust pension reforms, worsening pay and conditions of service, and increasing job insecurity.

"With such deep levels of demoralisation, our schools are on the brink of a crisis affecting recruitment and retention. Only the recession is preventing a mass exodus."

Kent County Council cabinet member for business strategy, performance and health reform, Roger Gough, said the authority's priority was to maintain public services.

"For that reason, we do have clear guidelines in place to respond to strike action. This includes measures to make sure any potential disruption to services is either minimised or avoided completely," he said.

"It is difficult to assess the precise impact this could have in Kent and will depend upon both union members and non-union staff as well as more general support levels."

Health bosses said they were putting measures in place to mitigate the strike's impact.

Hazel Carpenter, NHS Kent and Medway's director of commissioning development and workplace said: "NHS Kent and Medway is activating its business continuity plans to ensure critical functions are covered.

"Across the NHS, employers are working with union representatives to ensure strike action does not impact on patient care and safety.

"We will be working with our union colleagues to clarify which functions are critical for that day, and where we need their support to ensure those functions are staffed."

Unison, GMB and PCS are among the unions which balloted for action.

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ECONOMY

The Open's power fires £77m into our economy after golf extravaganza

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE Open in Sandwich this summer contributed a massive £77 million to the county's economy, it was revealed this week.

Independent economic research commissioned by tournament organiser, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club (R&A), found east Kent alone – Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway – benefitted to the tune of £21.2m, with the county as a whole banking more than £24m.

The £77m included £52.6m of destination marketing benefit, which boosted the profile of the area nationally and internationally, through the week-long event at Royal St George's in July.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter said having the spotlight on the county would help secure inward investment for the area.

"The Open was the largest major global sports event that Kent has accommodated in recent years," he said.

"Not only did it lead to a golf legacy project involving many hundreds of people in the county trying golf for the first time, but it boosted the profile of the area nationally and internationally, which should help in our efforts to secure inward investment, tourism and jobs for east Kent."

The world famous tournament, which was previously held in Kent in 2003, attracted 180,000 spectators this year with 37,000 travelling on the special high-speed service from London to Sandwich.

Airline Flybe reported that total bookings at Manston airport increased by 70 per cent in July, with a 40 per cent rise in bookings on the company's Edinburgh service.

The tournament was won in style by Ulsterman Darren Clarke, who picked up the Claret Jug on his 20th attempt. He won by three shots and picked up a winner's cheque of £900,000.

The only big name missing from the line-up was Tiger Woods who was forced out due to injury.

Sports minister and Faversham and Mid-Kent MP Hugh Robertson said The Open was one of the jewels in the crown of the sporting calendar, which attracted golf fans from all over the world.

"As a Kent MP, it was good to see it return to Royal St George's this year," he said.

"Hosting the championship gave an economic boost to the county and region, but also to the country as a whole."

Chief executive of The R&A, Peter Dawson, said he was delighted The Open had delivered a significant economic impact to the community.

"In one week, the economic benefit for Kent exceeded £24m and the tourism legacy benefit of almost 300 hours of scenic images of the countryside, viewed globally on television, will pay back in the county for years to come," he said.

The results of the economic impact assessment came just weeks after east Kent was successful in its bid to the Government's Regional Growth Fund, securing £40m to help create new jobs and support businesses in Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway.

In August, the Sandwich Discovery Park – the former Pfizer site – also secured Enterprise Zone status, offering businesses incentives such as tax breaks and lenient planning rules in a bid to attract investment and new companies.

Picture: ADY KERRY

DRAW: Rory McIlroy starred at this year's Open

TRANSPORT

Good news at last, as Government puts brakes on Dartford toll rises

PLANS for a controversial double increase in charges at the Dartford Crossing have been abandoned by the Government.

While it is not yet known whether the heavily criticised proposal will be ditched altogether, roads minister Mike Penning confirmed the planned hike in toll charges expected this month and in April next year will not go ahead.

Motorists currently pay £1.50 for a single trip through the crossing, but plans were to push this up to £2 now and £2.50 next April.

The move was fiercely criticised by drivers' groups and local politicians, with 11 MPs, including Tory Dartford representative Gareth Johnson, writing to the Government demanding the planned toll increases be scrapped.

In an unexpected statement this week, Mr Penning announced that charges would remain the same until further consideration.

"The Dartford Crossing is a vital piece of transport infrastructure that has brought huge economic benefits," he said.

"The large number of responses to our consultation into increasing charges shows just how important the crossing is for local people and road users.

"We have listened to concerns about introducing increases before Christmas and the Olympics and I can confirm that the charges will not rise this month and in April next year as originally planned.

"A final decision on timings and a full response to the consultation will be announced in due course, once we have had more time to fully consider all the important issues raised by the 1,300 plus responses.

He added: "This does not change the fact that many more motorists want to use the crossing than it was designed for - leading to frequent lengthy delays and damage to the economy - and action is needed.

"That is why we announced in last year's spending review that we intend to increase charges.

"The increase in revenue this will bring allows us to prioritise improvements which will benefit the millions of crossing users, including introducing free flow charging and exploring provision of new additional crossing capacity."

Leader of Kent County Council, Paul Carter, said: "I welcome the news, however, it is still vital the Department for Transport introduces free flow tolling as soon as possible.

"Also, that the DoT continues to look at delivering additional crossing capacity of the Thames and makes a firmer commitment to when this will happen."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call in beheading case

FOREIGN Office chiefs say they will investigate how the murder case of a Chatham woman, brutally beheaded in India earlier this year, collapsed - despite two men pleading guilty.

Surjit Kaur, 67, was killed after going missing in the Punjab region. But criminal proceedings fell apart last month after a key witness withdrew. Members of her family met with minister Jeremy Browne on Wednesday to discuss the case.

KCC in data criticism

KENT County Council has been named one of the worst authorities in the UK for losing sensitive and private data. It was named and shamed in a report published by Big Brother Watch which revealed cases across the UK.

It was however praised for being open and transparent about the losses. KCC said as the biggest authority in England it was no surprise it came out top. It added it had a robust system in place to log and investigate all incidents.

Emaciated dog found

A STARVING dog, just half its normal body weight, has been found dumped in the street.

Now the RSPCA is appealing for information on how the male lurcher it's named Reuben was discovered abandoned and so thin its bones had broken through its skin in Church Road, Hartley.

The animal is now being cared for at the RSPCA Leybourne centre near West Malling. Centre manager Christine Dooley said: "This is the thinnest dog I've ever seen."

It is appealling for donations to help fund £1,000 of treatment.

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BUSINESS

TV chef's flagship diner in peril as money woes put survival on the menu

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

TOP Tunbridge Wells restaurant Thackeray's has been forced to take major steps to balance its books after "adverse trading pressures" led it to enter into a new agreement with creditors, to prevent it from collapse.

The Michelin star-winning venue, which overlooks the Common and was the former home of 19th century novelist William Makepeace Thackeray, is co-owned by celebrity chef Richard Phillips, who also runs a string of venues across the county.

Now Thackeray's has entered into what is known as a Company Voluntary Agreement (CVA).

A spokesman for the company said it was required to allow the restaurant to "continue to trade in its present form".

A CVA allows a limited company experiencing cash flow problems to reorganise their debts to creditors and repay them either in part or in full over an extended period.

It is normally a step taken to avoid having to go into administration and buy time to turn the business around.

A spokesman for the company said: "Thackerays (Limited) has entered into a CVA as the most effective process to allow the restaurant to continue to trade in its present form and maintain its commitment to customer quality and service.

"This course of action is necessary due to adverse trading pressures over the past 18 months. These mounting pressures have required the business to operate on reduced credit terms with a number of large suppliers which has negatively impacted on the cash flow position of the business.

"Entering into the CVA allows the business to consolidate its creditors' book and will provide a period of payment deferral to ease cash flow pressure. This action is protecting the business and allows it to function as normal to ensure the highest levels of service to the restaurant's patrons.

"The management of the company is committed to Thackeray's restaurant and will endeavour to trade the business to a positive position in the near term."

The spokesman said none of Mr Phillips' other restaurants were affected by the situation.

Mr Phillips, who lives near Maidstone, took over the restaurant in Tunbridge Wells more than 10 years ago – his first venture in the county.

IN THE MIX: Richard Phillips runs Thackeray's

The cook, who has appeared on TV shows such as Ready Steady Cook and Saturday Kitchen, began his career at the Savoy Hotel in London. He then worked at La Gavroche with the Roux Brothers before becoming head chef for Marco Pierre White at the Criterion.

He also owns the Hengist in Aylesford, which he opened in 2004, Richard Phillips at Chapel Down in Tenterden, opened at the vineyard near the town in 2008, and the Pearson's Arms gastro pub in Whitstable, which he took over last year.

A previous Michelin star winner, Thackeray's has also held three AA rosettes and was named the best gourmet restaurant in Kent in 2009.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Island murder probe

A MURDER investigation has been launched into the death of former Marine and Sheppey school teacher Carl Davies after he was found dead on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

His family had accused local police of mishandling the case after initially claiming he fell to his death.

A second post mortem will take place this week amid speculation he was beaten and sexually assaulted.

Bomb hoax charge

A 49-YEAR-OLD woman from Tunbridge Wells has been charged with falsely claiming a bomb was set to go off.

The latest incident occurred on Tuesday and was directed toward the American Embassy. Jessica Lang from Stephen's Road in the town, was arrested the following day and charged with communicating false information and a separate count of shoplifting. She was bailed until December 6.

Wind farm cash boost

AN offshore wind farm off the coast of Thanet is to benefit from a £150 million funding boost from the European Investment Bank in a bid to help the UK hit renewable energy targets.

The 100-turbine wind farm, the largest of its kind in the world, aims to help the UK generate 15 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The cash will be presented once a series of assessments are completed.

AVIATION

FLYING IN THE FACE: An artist's impression of the airport hub put forward by Lord Foster

Fears grow as airport plans sprout wings in the corridors of power

GOVERNMENT chiefs appear to be warming to the idea of a major new airport hub to be built in the Thames Estuary as critics of the proposals look to galvanise their opposition for what seems destined to be a long and messy fight.

Just a week after the minister of aviation wrote to Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless stating the Government had "no plans" for a new airport in or around Kent, speculation is spreading the ideas may be gaining support in the corridors of power.

Chancellor George Osbourne is reportedly prepared to listen to the idea, with Steve Hilton, Downing Street's influential head of strategy, also keen to explore the options.

In addition, London Mayor Boris Johnson launched a new report on the economic benefits of building a new site on reclaimed land in the estuary – dubbed Boris Island.

He claims it would allow the UK to access billions of pounds of foreign investment.

His idea has recently been joined by Lord Foster's ambitious scheme for a huge airport hub on the Isle of Grain.

But opposition in Kent remains high. A new online petition has been launched by Medway Council to object to the plans. The website is backed by Kent County Council and the RSPB. It invites the people of Kent to write a letter to the Mayor of London demanding it be stopped.

The leader of Medway Council, Rodney Chambers, said: "The Thames Estuary airport would require huge unsightly highways to be built linking the airport to the motorway network turning parts of Medway and Kent into a concrete jungle. This scheme does not add up. It cannot be allowed to progress further."

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KOS CAMPAIGN

'Heating or eating' - the choice many OAPs face due to rising fuel costs

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

VULNERABLE elderly people are being forced to turn off their heating and suffer bitterly cold temperatures in their homes due to the rising cost of fuel.

And despite being given the £200 winter fuel payment – handed tax-free by government to every household with someone aged 60 or over living there – some admitted it only covered a fraction of their winter heating bills.

But they continue to suffer in silence, with many slipping into isolation as they wrap themselves up at home in a bid to try and keep warm.

Roger Cusdin, chairman of the Tunbridge Wells-based Young at Heart, a club providing a social hub for elderly people, said he sees first hand the struggles faced by older people living on the breadline.

"Eighty per cent of our members live by themselves, and I'm sure some of them have to make a choice between heating and eating due to rising fuel costs," he said.

"The winter fuel payment is a lifeline to many, but it doesn't always go far enough. There are many who are much worse off than others."

Mr Cusdin gave his support to the Archant KOS Media-backed Surviving Winter appeal, run by Kent Community Foundation (KCF), which appeals for better-off pensioners who do not need the £200 to donate some or all of the payment to the neediest in their communities.

KCF's Annette Fettes stressed the campaign was not suggesting all pensioners give up the payment, but asks those who really do not need the money to "recycle" it by helping others.

Pauline Scrace from Tunbridge Wells, suffers from the bone disease osteoporosis and, despite the cold weather making her symptoms worse, has to turn her heating off due to rising bills.

The 61-year-old, who cares for her two grandsons, aged 12 and 17, said winter was a difficult time.

"I get my electricity and gas bills at the same time and although the £200 winter fuel payment helps, it doesn't cover it," she said.

"I really struggle in the winter. I have my heating on from about 5-9pm. I try and cut down my food bills so I can keep the heating on for longer."

Asked what she thought of the Surviving Winter campaign, she said: "For people that are really well-off it wouldn't hurt to donate some of the £200, although I wouldn't want to take it from anyone who needed it.

"I know there are people worse off than me."

West Kent resident Pat Long, 70, said she was finding the winters more difficult.

"I have my heating on at certain times of the day, but I put on my woollies and dressing gown over the top to try and keep warm," she said.

"I don't cope well in the winter; I find it depressing and it's so dark and cold and it's hard always trying to keep warm. I have to be so careful with how much hot water I use and how long I have the heating on for."

Kent Community Foundation said its aim is for every penny donated to go to the needy, with administrative costs covered by the Government through Gift Aid donations.

You can donate by cheque. Please remember to Gift Aid your donation using the form below, this will add 25 per cent to its value.

You can also donate at www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_ winter.html.

FRIENDS UNITED: Members of the Tunbridge Wells-based Young at Heart club, many of whom struggle to keep warm during the winter months according to its chairman Roger Cusdin

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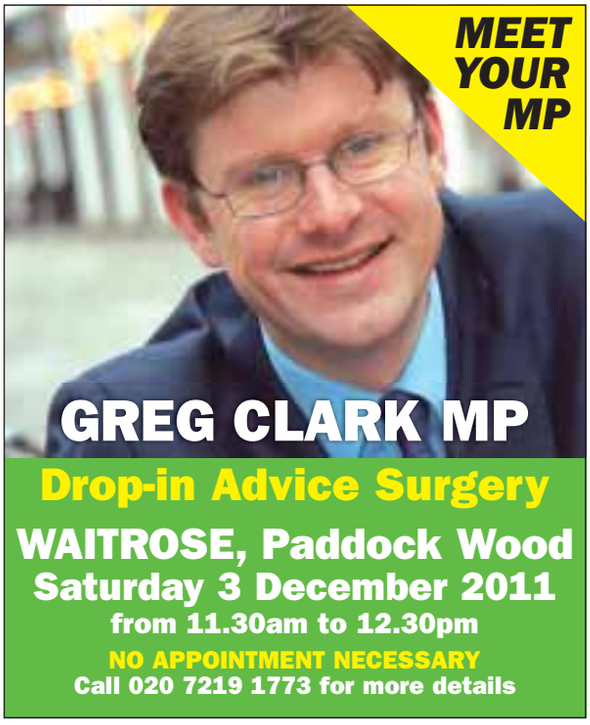

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News

COUNCIL

Public to have say on plans to raise price of parking in the borough

TIGHT FIT: Cost of parking in the town centre could rise by 20p

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL chiefs in Tunbridge Wells have agreed not to extend car parking charges to overnight, but have put forward proposals which would see prices in pay and displays rise and approved a steep increase in residents' permits.

However, it stresses the plans will not be rubber stamped until a public consultation process is conducted and that no price hikes will come into force until next April.

Prices in most town centre car parks will rise by 10-20p an hour, with residents' permits, which will not go to consultation. leaping from £40 to £60.

Sunday parking charges will also be extended until 5pm – it is currently 4pm – if the plans are agreed.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council leader, Bob Atwood, said: "I am acutely aware that parking is a 'no win' for any council, but in a tough economic climate we have to look at the contribution parking makes to income and particularly that it covers costs; my philosophy is that the user should pay.

"Living in the borough is good value for money, if you lived in any of our neighbouring authorities you would be paying between £172 and £222 more in council tax.

"The Audit Commission says the council delivers value for money and has good financial governance.

"We feel that increasing parking fees and charges, while regrettable, is necessary if we are to continue to deliver the range of essential services to our council tax payers.

"However, final decisions have not been made and will not be until we have listened to everyone's views through the consultation feedback."

But not all charges will go up. It is suggested annual season ticket prices for the main multi-story car parks will fall by as much as £100 while monthly ticket prices will remain unchanged.

The report was presented by Brian Ransley, planning and transportation portfolio holder, who told his cabinet colleagues that the proposed changes to parking charges are necessary and the "fairest way forward, in keeping with what other councils are doing".

There are also proposals to introduce a charge of 20p for the first two hours parking in Paddock Wood to cover the running costs of the car park and introduce charges to John Street car park in Royal Tunbridge Wells to discourage long stay parking.

The council says the John Street move is "to support the local businesses by offering the first hour's parking free".

Cllr Ransley also proposed that a number of spaces in the Great Hall car park be designated for season tickets to offer a competitive alternative to the rail station car park.

The cabinet approved the recommendation in the report that car park charges and season tickets should go to consultation and agreed that residents' parking permits should increase from £40 to £60.

In supporting the recommendation to increase the cost of permits Cllr Ransley pointed out the increase would not cover the cost of administration of the permits.

The proposals for the parking charges will now go to a public consultation which will commence on December 1 for six weeks.

Information about how to ensure your views are heard in the consultation will be published nearer the time.

FISHING

GIANT OF THE DEEP: Kevin with friends Gaz Williams and Rick Parfitt, who helped him land this huge catfish on Spanish river Ebro

Spanish fishing trip nets angler a real monster

A TONBRIDGE angler was left flabbergasted after landing a catfish weighing and measuring longer than the average man.

The whopper, which weighed in at 234lb – or a staggering 16 and a half stone – measured 8ft 4in. It was landed by big fish angler Kevin Midmore, 48, while on a three-day fishing trip to the river Ebro in Spain.

He said: "The rod was almost bent double and it took 45 minutes of back-breaking work to tame the fish."

He landed the fish on a Fox, 7ft 60 gramme lure rod using squid as bait.

It is believed to be one of the biggest catfish ever caught on such small tackle.

News

TRAVEL

Rail passengers face hurdle of Olympic Games timetable

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

TRAIN operator Southeastern says it will not give cash compensation to rail passengers whose journeys will be affected by next year's London Olympic Games.

The event may be the biggest sports event this country has seen years, but for Kent's rail users it will mean delays and disruption.

Southeastern this week announced its timetable for the two-week period next summer, and the hardest hit passengers will be those who use the high-speed service to London.

The Javelin trains, which normally run to Dover, Folkestone, Canterbury, Ramsgate and Margate, will be used to shuttle sports fans between St Pancras in north London and Ebbsfleet – with a stop in the middle at the Olympic stadium in Stratford.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) wants Southeastern to run eight trains per hour along the high-speed line between St Pancras and Ebbsfleet. Originally all the trains would have terminated at Ebbsfleet, but Southeastern has persuaded the authority to allow two of the trains to continue on to Ashford and one to continue on to Faversham, each hour.

Extra late-night services have also been scheduled for those stations. Passengers further down the line will have to use mainline trains to Ashford and Faversham and change if they want to continue using the fast connection.

ODA director of transport Hugh Sumner described the rail service as being "significantly enhanced" during the Olympics.

This may be true for those living in the London area, but for Kent passengers there will inevitably be more crowded trains and longer journeys.

The train operator has said it will compensate high-speed passengers from the stations affected during the Olympics.

The company defended the decision to give compensation in vouchers rather than cash. The vouchers will be given to holders of monthly and longer period high-speed tickets.

A spokesman said: "We appreciate for some passengers using high speed it will not be a through service, but because we have provided a service for passengers who need to travel, even though it may take longer, we have opted to give the compensation in vouchers rather than cash. Passengers can still get refunds for tickets not used.

"We will be contacting everyone on our list before Christmas and in May."

Southeastern says the mainline service will be largely unaffected during the Games, which run from July 27 to August 12.

The timetable is based on the prediction that there will be 10 per cent fewer passengers using rail services at that time of year because of people being on holiday.

The news comes after it was revealed there would be disruption to rail services in Kent over Christmas while Network Rail installed new signalling on the tracks.

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News

COLLISION

Police call for witnesses as motorbike crash victim dies

A 24-year-old hit by a motorcycle as he crossed the road by Tonbridge School has died in hospital from his injuries.

Now police are renewing their appeal for witnesses to the crash, which took place at around 6.40pm on Sunday, November 13, on the pedestrian crossing outside the top public school, on Tonbridge High Street.

He was crossing with two friends when he was hit by a bike travelling from the town centre direction.

The victim suffered serious life threatening injuries and was taken to hospital in London. It had been hoped he would make a recovery after his condition was described as 'stable' during the week, but his condition worsened and he died on Saturday morning, November 19.

The motorcyclist, a 21-year-old man from Tunbridge Wells, also sustained injuries to his face and head and was taken to the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

THE SCENE: Police want to hear from witnesses to the crash

At the time, officers closed the road at the top of the High Street, where it meets Hadlow Road, Shipbourne Road and London Road.

Anyone with information about the collision is asked to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 01622 798538.

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News

EDUCATION

First free school's mix of Mandarin, music and burning ambition

TIGER Primary School is set to achieve two significant firsts next year.

Not only will it be the first primary school in Maidstone for 25 years, it will also herald the arrival of a new breed of schools in Kent – the free school.

In a special article for this newspaper, **GIGI LUSCOMBE**, the chief executive of the Future Schools Trust, which is behind the project, explains the reasoning behind it and why it believes it has a winning formula with a mix of Mandarin, longer opening hours, and music...

"TIGER Primary School is set to open to its first pupils next September.

Run by Future Schools Trust, which currently operates two academies and a studio school in Maidstone, we are now at the pre-opening stage with our application to open Maidstone's first free school.

We have been innovative in our approach to secondary education and now wish to extend this into the primary sector.

Our primary offer reflects our belief that education needs to change to meet the needs of a modern society, a society in which the factory model of education will no longer suffice.

We wish to extend the tracking processes we have developed for our secondary schools into the primary sector. These emphasise social competencies and make a strong link between social competence and academic success.

The Tiger Primary School provision is unique.

Beyond the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum we are offering longer daily opening hours, from 7.30am to 6.00pm, at no cost to parents; the teaching of Mandarin from the age of four to develop proficiency in a modern foreign language at an earlier age; and using the Chinese Abacus (Suanpan) to teach numeracy skills.

All children will also learn to play a musical instrument.

We will be reinforcing the connection between broader intellectual competencies and competence in language, music and maths.

The whole programme is deliberately aspirational and academically rigorous.

Although we have not operated a primary school before we do have experience in improving academic outputs, often from a low base.

We are seeking and will employ a primary headteacher of the highest calibre, along with primary teachers to manage and run the new school.

We will continue to operate harmoniously with our local primary schools, but also recognise that educational standards can be improved within a competitive environment.

Our secondary schools have been recognised globally – New Line Learning Academy has been chosen as a reference site for innovation by Microsoft, receiving more than 1,200 visitors from overseas in the past three years. It is our vision that our new primary school will follow suit.

At Future Schools Trust we want to contribute towards the well-being of all young people and most of all we want to see better academic and social development for the children of the communities we serve."

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News

CRIME

Former 'most wanted' child abuser jailed for grooming 15-year-old boy

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SERIAL child abuser who was previously on the police most-wanted list has been jailed for grooming a 15-year-old schoolboy.

Jason Trask (pictured right), of Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, pleaded guilty to attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming.

Maidstone Crown Court heard how the 63-year-old, while living in the town, had sent messages of a sexual nature to the teen and arranged to meet with him, but was instead arrested by officers from Kent Police's public protection unit.

Trask has numerous convictions for serious child sexual abuse committed over a period of 44 years, in both the UK and Holland, starting in 1964.

He had connections with Woolwich, Greenwich, Medway, Maidstone and Canterbury.

Trask was previously on the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre most-wanted list after failing to comply with notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act.

He was sentenced to four years in prison plus an extended public protection licence of two years.

He was also given a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for an indefinite period, restricting access to the internet and children; was disqualified from working with children; and has an order banning any foreign travel for five years.

He will remain on the sex offenders' register for life.

Judge Statman said: "You have a horrendous record of criminality... and you have not learned any lesson from previous terms of imprisonment."

Det Insp Matthew Long of Kent Police's Public Protection Unit said: "Trask is a very dangerous individual and we have proactively investigated him using innovative methods to protect the people of Kent.

"The custodial sentence is entirely fitting.

"Children should be able to grow up without risk of an adult preying upon them and behaving in an entirely inappropriate way towards them.

"We will relentlessly pursue anyone who commits offences of sexual abuse against children."

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BUSINESS

Growth key to firms winning share of £40m fund

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

BUSINESS leaders have learned how they can benefit from a slice of the county's £40 million share of cash designed to kick start economic growth.

It comes just weeks after Government approved the multi-million pound boost for the area, by agreeing to give £40m of the national £1 billion Regional Growth Fund to Expansion East Kent, a new grant support programme for businesses, led by Kent County Council.

County Hall chiefs and MPs officially launched the scheme to business owners at Hornby Hobbies in Margate.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said the programme aimed to attract as many as 500 new businesses and create up to 5,000 jobs across Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Canterbury.

But he stressed that supporting the right companies was crucial in making sure east Kent saw the desired growth.

"The key criteria is growth of existing business or new firms coming in. They need to demonstrate job creation and good value," he said.

"These grants are not for supporting firms in difficulty; they will go to companies that have a growth agenda."

Springboard grants of up to £25,000 for start-ups and small businesses with less than 10 employees are available to applicants, as well as larger grants for investment and growth, worth up to £2.5m.

SUPPORT: Cllr Paul Carter

These are expected to be available from spring 2012.

Some £3.5m in business critical infrastructure grants will also be spent on transport links, with hopes for a new Manston Parkway station to service the airport, and high-speed rail enhancement on the Ashford to Ramsgate route.

KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Cllr Kevin Lynes, said there were still a number of "hoops" to go through with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, but the council wanted to cut bureaucracy and move forward.

"We've had this successful bid and we've got to make sure the money comes through as quickly as possible," he said.

Expansion East Kent is led by KCC with the support of district councils, MPs and the Sandwich Task Force, which was set up in the wake of Pfizer's announcement it would be pulling out of the area, leaving 2,400 jobs at risk.

While 650 jobs have since been retained at the site, some 700 posts have already gone, with a further 800 to go by the end of next year.

Following the drug giant's shock announcement in February, the site has been given Enterprise Zone status, offering businesses that move to the Pfizer site – now the Sandwich Discovery Park – incentives including tax breaks and lenient planning rules.

Tory MP for South Thanet Laura Sandys said the regional growth fund bid, combined with Enterprise Zone status, showed the area was a priority.

"Things are changing and we have the Government's support," she said. "We shouldn't consider ourselves as being at the end of the line – we're being put at the front of the queue.

"It's now about raising the game for the area. East Kent is very much open for business.

"We're not looking to displace jobs; we're looking for new business, national companies and expanding firms."

Grants would be given for a specific project and matching investment would be required from the business. Expansion East Kent will pay for a proportion of total project costs.

For more information about the grants visit www.kent.gov.uk/businessgrants.

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News

CHARITY

Mayor ushers in annual toy appeal to aid deprived kids

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WANT to help put a smile on the face of deserving children this Christmas? Then the annual Mayor's Toy Appeal launched this week will allow you to do just that.

For more than 20 years the toy appeal has ensured local children who risk waking up on Christmas morning to discover no presents waiting for them, get some festive good cheer.

From newborns to teenagers, the charity push helps youngsters served by the St George's Community Children's Project by appealing to kind-hearted residents to donate a gift.

Last year more than 280 children received a Christmas present as a result of the charity.

Launching this year's appeal, the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, Elizabeth Thomas, urged everyone to get involved.

She said: "This will bring a little bit of magic into the lives of those children who would otherwise not know of Father Christmas's annual visit. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated both by little people and older children in the borough."

GIFT: Mayor launches annual appeal at RVP

To get involved, visit one of the town's Giving Trees – one is at Royal Victoria Place – and be inspired by gift tags detailing presents that would make an ideal gift.

Donations can then be left in a variety of donations in Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood, Cranbrook, Pembury and Southborough until the appeal ends on December 17.

Full details about where to find a Giving Tree and donation points are on the borough council's website, www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

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News

CONVENTION

Dr Who stars to visit special fan day and help support charity

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

STARS of cult TV show Doctor Who will come to Tunbridge Wells in January for a one-day convention as part of a charity event to raise money.

The event, Big Blue Box, will take place on January 14 at the Trinity Theatre.

It will include special screenings, panel discussions, signing sessions and other events for fans of Doctor Who and science-fiction.

Among those taking part will be local actress Louise Jameson. The star of Bergerac and EastEnders was also Tom Baker's assistant Leela during his time portraying the Timelord.

Susan Jameson, who appears in Doctor Who audio plays along with Tom Baker will also be there. The pair will be joined by writers of the BBC show – John Dorney, Paul Magrs and Jonathan Morris.

BIG BLUE BOX: The event is sure to appeal to Dr Who fans

All profits from the event will go to Compaid, which helps disabled adults in Kent maximise their social, creative and learning opportunities by harnessing IT and other resources.

Stephen Elsden, chief executive of Compaid, said: "Big Blue Box marks the first ever fan convention for Doctor Who in Tunbridge Wells, which has a long history of associations with the show.

"From a screening of a classic Peter Cushing Dalek movie to more recent fan films, we will be taking full advantage of Trinity's superb theatre."

Tickets cost £25 for the day, and are available from Trinity Theatre's box office on 01892 678678 or online at www.trinitytheatre.net.

ENTERTAINMENT

Michael McIntyre to perform one-off show

TOP comic Michael McIntyre may be more used to performing enormous venues such as the O2 Arena but this weekend he will thrill the audience in the more intimate surroundings fo the Hazlitt Art Centre.

The star and judge of Britain's Got Talent, will be performing at the Maidstone venue for one night on Saturday to try out new material on an audience.

He is no stranger to the venue, however, having played there back in November 2007, just before his career went into orbit and he became a household name.

Tickets sold out within a few hours of going on sale.

TRANSPORT

Motorway markings to cut accident rates

ROAD markings are to be painted on a busy section of the M2 in a bid to make the road safer and cut down on accidents.

Work by the Highways Agency started this week to install new chevron shaped road markings on a 3.75 mile section of the coastbound M2 between junction 5 near Sittingbourne and junction 6 at Faversham.

New roadside signs will remind drivers to keep two chevrons apart. The work is expected to take three weeks to complete.

Similar schemes have been used elsewhere in the UK since the early 1990s and evidence has shown that in the right locations they can help cut accidents by up to 56 per cent.

CRIME

'Dangerous and violent' ex-soldier locked up for stabbing wife to death

A FORMER soldier has been jailed indefinitely for stabbing his wife to death in Broadstairs.

Gary Walker, 42, appeared at Canterbury Crown Court on Monday, November 21, for sentencing after previously admitting the manslaughter, on grounds of diminished responsibility, of his wife Natalie Walker.

The court heard how Mrs Walker, 34, who had left Walker because of his violent behaviour towards her, visited him at the home they had shared in Grant Close on March 5.

During the visit, Walker became angry, grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed her repeatedly. Mrs Walker was taken to hospital in Margate but died from her injuries.

JAIL: Gary Walker

Imposing an indefinite sentence on Walker, Judge Adele Williams, said on Monday that Walker was a "dangerous and violent" offender who would serve at least six years before being considered for parole.

Det Insp Trevor Fleming, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "The devastation caused to this very close family by the loss of a loving mother, daughter and sister is something they will live with for years to come.

"No sentence will go any way to healing the hurt this vicious attack has caused but I am satisfied that a violent and unpredictable man has been put behind bars where he can no longer be a danger or threat to them."

■ **More news at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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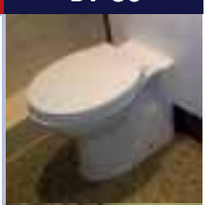

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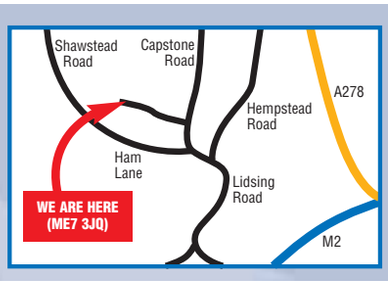

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News

EDUCATION

College incorporates residents' views into new building design

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

REPRESENTATIVES of residents living around K College's Brook Street campus in Tonbridge have met with key members of the college project team and architect about plans to develop yet another new building on the site.

The complex has under gone a complete transformation in recent years as part of a multi-million redevelopment.

Now it wants to build a new technology centre on the campus and is encouraging those living nearby to come and see for themselves the changes proposed.

Principal Bill Fearon said: "We believe residents will see that we are taking their views seriously and will implement as many improvements to our proposals as possible in order to make this the best technology centre for our college and our neighbours.

DEVELOPING: K College

"We offered residents the chance to feed their views into the design process and have now had a very productive meeting between their representatives and our design team, and the results of this will be on show for the wider community to see and comment on."

The move follows complaints by locals about more redevelopment work on the site after years of blight.

Among the ideas suggested by residents and being taken up by K College is reducing the height of the proposed building, enhancing planting with some trees planted before construction starts, enhancing acoustic measures over and above statutory regulation requirements, and also a review of highway issues with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

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News

THEATRE

Author nominated for Booker Prize aims to impress in book show

By Ed Hill
ed@hill.archant.co.uk

A NEW show coming to Tunbridge Wells hopes to capitalise on the booming popularity of book groups – with a Booker Prize nominated author spearheading the event.

The Big Book Group describes it itself as "a joyful celebration for people bonded together by their interest in books" and heads to the Assembly Hall Theatre on December 12.

The show will be a mixture of guest authors, quizzes and critical appraisal designed to attract people who are already members of groups or are thinking of joining one.

Carol Birch will be the first guest author for the show. Her novel Jamrach's Menagerie was shortlisted for this year's Man Booker Prize.

WELL WRITTEN: Carol Birch

She said: "It sounded like it would be fun to do. Book clubs are the modern equivalent of a coffee morning and the reading just helps to oil the wheels.

"The books are important and its good people hear about literature that they might not normally consider but it is also the social aspect as well."

The author said the phenomenon mainly seems to attract women.

She said: "Around 85 per cent of people who go to book clubs are women. I think the whole set up is geared towards them more because the clubs tend to be held at people's homes, where people provide food and wine.

"It's a shame it doesn't happen down the pub a bit more. It would be nice if more men got involved."

During the show the author will have to write a quick story or "flash fiction" based on audience suggestions.

Tickets are on sale at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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THE WAY WE WERE: Margate's Dreamland is set to be transformed

HERITAGE

Dreamland restoration bid wins £3m Lottery bonanza

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

PLANS to transform the old Dreamland site in Margate into a major tourist attraction have taken a giant stride forward thanks to a £3 million Heritage Lottery grant.

The cash awarded to the Dreamland Trust means plans to create an amusement park based on historic rides are closer to happening.

The figure adds to the £3.7m already given by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, as part of its Sea Change funding, and £4m given by Thanet council.

Nick Laister, chairman of the Dreamland Trust, said: "This puts in place all the funding we now need to enable us to reopen Dreamland Margate and at the same time secure the future of its three remarkable listed structures, the Scenic Railway roller coaster, Dreamland Cinema, and George Sanger's Menagerie cages."

The grant means the first phase of the project can go ahead. A new station will be built on the Scenic Railway which was damaged by fire in 2008, and there will be refurbishment works to the cinema at the park's entrance.

FRESH START: The designs for the new Scenic Railway train station

The Victorian excotic animal cages will also be restored at the park, which can date its history back to 1860s.

Stuart McLeod, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the South East, said: "This project has huge potential to entertain, intrigue, and delight. As Margate's answer to an early Disneyland, we're delighted to award this investment."

The revival of Dreamland, which closed in 2006, is a major component of Margate's regeneration plans. The trust estimates it will attract around 350,000 visits every year. The plans also include various antique amusement rides and a dedicated learning centre.

However the money will not be handed over until a compulsory purchase order (CPO) served by Thanet council on the site's owner the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company, is confirmed next year.

Conservative leader of Thanet District Council, Cllr Bob Bayford, said: "We're delighted with this news, especially as it completes the funding needed for the first stage of the project. We have been working hard with the Dreamland Trust to bring it back into use.

"This year is turning out to be a major milestone for Margate's regeneration, with the opening of Turner Contemporary. Our next job is to get the CPO confirmed, so Margate can be home to a world first that will attract thousands more to the town."

Cllr Clive Hart, Thanet Labour leader, said: "The Dreamland site has stood empty for far too long and as someone born, bred and living in the area, I know how the closure of Dreamland has blighted the town."

The second phase of the project will be the restoration of the cinema, which still needs to find funding.

A public enquiry into the CPO will be heard in January.

■ **For more news and sport see www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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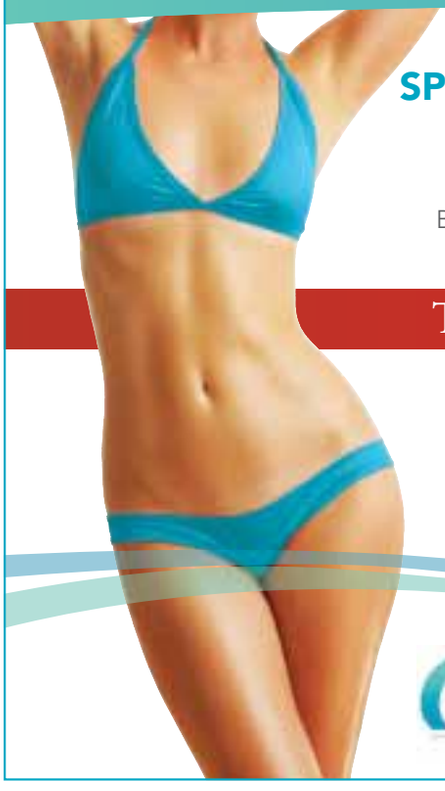

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

EMPIRE: These Roman remains in Richborough could help prove the invaders first arrived in Thanet

Roman invading force that landed in Thanet

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A NEW book takes a look at how Kent's past is intertwined with the greatest empire of the ancient world.

To Rule Britannia, by John Waite, considers the successful invasion of Britain by the Roman emperor Claudius in AD43.

The author said: "There were previous attempts by Julius Caesar but he never made it much past the beaches."

Waite argues the Romans would have most likely landed at thew beaches of Thanet, as opposed to other coastal areas in southern Britain.

He said: "In recent years a theory that the Romans landed in Chichester has come to prominence.

"This is because some historians believe there are good political and economic reasons why they would have chosen there, but there is a lot of archaeological evidence to show that Richborough was the original landing site."

Waite has taken a practical look of why an invading army would have chosen Thanet as opposed to the south coast.

He said: "This was a massive military operation. It was the Romans' D-Day.

"If you are going to plan an invasion like that you have to take into account all the military considerations they would have looked at. You need to look at the strategic angles and the logistical angles and that is what I have done with this book."

INVASION FORCE: The new book by author John Waite

Waite has looked at accounts about the campaign by Tacitus, a Roman senator and historian from the time of the invasion.

He has also taken into account factors such as food and military supply lines.

He argues that the later Claudian invasion would have learned from the mistakes of Julius Caesar.

Waite said: "Some people say Julius' earlier landing may have been at Walmer or Deal, but I feel it was further north towards Sandwich.

"The Walmer and Deal beaches are a very difficult place to land. You would have difficulty dragging a big Roman cargo ship up that shingle."

The Romans' first victories on the Claudian invasion were over ancient tribes in Essex.

Waite argues an initial landing in Kent would have made these campaigns easier.

He said: "If you land in Sussex it is a longer march and you would have had to have travelled through a lot of forest.

"In order to supply troops with food the Roman's would have needed to have kept the march as short as possible.

"Thanet would have been much better. The island could have acted as bridgehead and you have the rivers of the Thames and Medway to help keep your troops supplied by boat."

The author also believes a great arch that was built in Richborough showed the location had great significance for the Romans.

He said: "They did throw up victory arches in places. There is no sign of anything like that in Chichester.

"Richborough also has double defence lines. Why would those have been created there if it wasn't to protect a Roman invasion force?

"I think it was the gateway into Britain as far as the Roman's were concerned."

To Rule Britannia, The Claudian Invasion of Britain AD43, is published by The History Press.

■ **For all the latest news and sport headlines see www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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OPINION

They will not be forgotten

David Foley explains the drive for £15 million to create the National War Memorial at Dover before the centenary of the outbreak of World War One

IT is an image brimming with emotion and impact.

A grieving man squeezing his eyes as he rests a sorrowful head on a wall of names.

He is a father, brother or other close relative of a soldier who fell doing his duty, and he is taking a chance to reach out to the memory of the dead family member.

This moving moment was captured at the Vietnam War Memorial, one of several such national monuments to America's fallen. That haunting image also forms part of a film (www.nationalwarmemorial.co.uk/documentary.php) to mark a new charitable campaign to ensure the UK corrects a shameful omission and builds a memorial to those who died fighting for their country in the two world wars.

Yes, we honour our war dead in the build up to Remembrance Sunday, culminating in that poignant ceremony at the Cenotaph in London.

And there is, of course, the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire naming those who have given their lives since World War Two. But where is the monument to the names of a staggering 1.7 million British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who fell in the world wars – the most dreadful conflicts of the last century?

If we are to avoid a repetition of so many fatalities and so much human grief, we must surely pay our respects to those who paid the heaviest price possible to teach us.

And where better to site the proposed National War Memorial than Dover, the frontline town in the nation's frontline county in both wars?

One of the last acts of the celebrated military historian Richard Holmes, who died in April, was to express his unwavering support for the memorial plan: "During the First World War the citizens of Dover would have been able to hear the distant rumble of the guns in France, and during the second the town was within artillery range of that coast.

"Many of the troops going to and from the continent would have used Dover Harbour, itself dominated by that great castle with all the symbolism of earlier wars."

Close to Dover Castle is the less visible, but no less impressive Victorian fortification of the Western Heights, badly in need of preservation and – more importantly – of a real objective to stimulate that preservation.

Which makes them the ideal backdrop for the site of the memorial: they need a new purpose and will provide the perfect home for a permanent, reminder of the cost of our freedom and democratic system.

Where is the monument to the 1.7 million who fell in the world wars?

The design by Craft:Pegg Architects comprises 12 white granite walls representing each year of conflict and bearing all 1.7 million names of the war dead, with no deference to rank or nationality.

In welcoming the thousands of visitors expected, we aim to promote research and provide links to the fallen; as Ian Hislop wrote to us, "so their names may remain 'Not Forgotten'".

The steering committee of a dozen civilian and military professionals have volunteered to make every possible effort to complete the project in time for the centenary of World War One's outbreak – August 4, 2014. We are mobilised to collect £15 million and we will be asking for support from government, public funds and any UK or Commonwealth citizens with a family member involved.

KOS COMMENT

Optimistic figures for policing are too much

WHILE it's good to be reassured by police that they are trying their best to protect frontline services, suggesting the number of officers is increasing is a PR spin too far.

Publishing headline-grabbing figures showing a huge rise in neighbourhood officers little more than a year after announcing hundreds of job cuts was surely going to raise eyebrows.

The public are not stupid. They also know the police will do everything possible to keep crime figures low. But let's not insult our intelligence, or those of officers who have lost their jobs, by massaging figures for an easy headline.

Drivers can enjoy a small victory over toll

FINALLY, it seems, Government is taking notice of what the man on the street – or in this case the man in the car, in a traffic jam, by the Dartford Crossing – is saying and unexpectedly dropped the planned toll hike. Given that the tolls were supposed to have been scrapped before, it is a hollow victory.

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Deer at Knole Park, Sevenoaks
by Mary Makins, Pembury

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Green 'earner' for Coalition

FROM past experiences we should know that the Government's right hand doesn't know what the left is doing. (KoS, New airport schemes).

We are continually being punished with green taxes, airport taxes, told to turn our TVs off standby, save plastic bags for re-use, etc, etc.

However, the Government wants to go ahead with yet more pollution and depletion of the Earth's finite resources by building another airport.

This makes it very clear they are only paying lip service to 'saving the world' and are more interested in the fact that pretending to be 'green' is a 'nice little earner'.

Just a glance at our cities ablaze through the night makes a mockery of the petty savings we are expected to make, and the invention of yet more taxes, whose only effect is to give the Government more of our money to waste.

Most of our main party MPs couldn't find their own backsides in the dark.

Let's save the country, get them out and Ukip in.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Remember all war's victims

I HAVE to admit I am becoming a little tired of war memorials, especially those which commemorate only those who died in uniform and on our side.

Surely the time has come to broaden our remembrance to include the victims of war.

Far, far more people die in modern war than are listed on memorials; victims of terror or of indiscriminate bombing and shelling, whether British, German, Irish, Iraqi or Afghan, they too had families, they too had a single unique life to lose.

Whether you think of servicemen as heroes or villains, surely you must also have compassion for their victims.

If we are to have yet another memorial on the White Cliffs, can we not dedicate this one to all the victims of war throughout the world?

Hedley Grenfell-Banks
Hothfield, Ashford

Cameron's out of his EU depth

SO now the politicians expect the public to trust them again.

They really are a poor bunch of people and I don't begin to understand their reasons for wanting to be in control of our late wonderful country because they haven't a clue how to run it.

Mr Cameron had better learn to swim because he is so out of his depth with his dealing with the EU, and as for Mrs Merkel – forget it.

He is going to drown – Germany is, without doubt, going to run Europe

Mrs Merkel is looking after her own country by listening to the people and acting accordingly. Mr Cameron, on the other hand, insists that the whole of this country is wrong and only he is right.

It is time for him to act on what the people want by holding a referendum. At least if they get it wrong they can only blame themselves.

Throughout Europe there are many governments that are just not up to the job and it is time for us to get out of the EU. Standing alone is something we have done many times before.

We may have half of our economy involved with Europe, but we also import a vast amount from Europe so they would not want to lose that.

Once we are clear of the EU we can shut the door and get rid of everyone who has no right to be here, and also those who are draining this country.

We could also make a start in governing our country, outlaw the Human Rights Act and get rid of the 10,000 criminals clogging up the prisons. Yes it will be hard, but it is going to be anyway with the ever-hungry EU wanting more money pumped into a lost cause.

When I voted it was for someone to run this country, not someone to take orders from Brussles. Every promise made at the election has been broken and yet we are still expected to trust this rabble.

You can't solve this problem Mr Cameron so let the people have a go while there is time.

If you can't do that then make way for someone who can, please.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Join climate change march

KENT Green Party is urging Kent and Medway residents to attend the annual Climate March being held in London on Saturday, December 3.

Climate change is not an abstract idea for Kent and Medway. The exceptional number of extreme weather events Kent has experienced since the 1987 hurricane all show the influence of climate change, not as a single cause of extreme rainfall or of droughts, but as factor which makes our weather worse.

Climate change puts more moisture in the atmosphere, making periods of rainfall often more powerful than in the past.

It also means whole climate systems can move north or south, creating long periods of drought as seen in Kent and Medway in the recent past.

But Kent and Medway's long coastline is also vulnerable to sea level rise.

Given a major new report stressing how extreme weather is made worse by climate change, and indications many countries are failing to cut greenhouse gas emissions, we need better action in the UK and abroad.

Dr Geoff Meaden, Chilham

How to cut building costs

AT the launch of the Kent Property Market report, Kent County Council leader Paul Carter spoke about the need to boost construction by simplifying the procurement process and building regulations, which he says are adding 25 per cent to building costs compared to mainland Europe. But that's not the main problem.

Higher salaries, rents and rates account for some of the difference but the main reason for greater construction costs is the procedures that are adopted.

Attempt to cut costs by appointing consultants on the lowest fee bid and they are unlikely to have the time or resources to keep a close eye on progress. So ironically, you often end up with projects on the lowest fee percentage costing the most to construct.

Good value is generally achieved through holistic design, where costs are considered from the outset and where someone is answerable at every stage. Unfortunately the majority of projects involve numerous consultants, who can be a significant cost and are often so far removed from the client they don't fully understand the fundamental brief.

In many cases design inefficiency occurs at the early concept design stage. And with each consultant adding their input at various points in the process, it can be difficult to pinpoint where the error occurred and costs can spiral.

The solution is to have an expert who fully understands costs working within the contractor's own organisation. Why? Because they will be involved in the project from the outset, can take full responsibility, and will have the authority to stop the project and review it if necessary to make sure the budget is kept under control.

So while Paul Carter's comments are valid, streamlining procedures would go a long way to reducing building costs, which will help generate new business growth and get the Kent economy moving.

Duncan Murray, Managing Director, Directline Structures, Ashford

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

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Established for more than 200 years, your son or daughter will enjoy a high quality of pastoral care and benefit from a supportive boarding community.

Set in 150 acres of countryside between Dover and Canterbury, Duke of York's combines traditional values, a military ethos and outstanding academic results with modern teaching. Its sports facilities include a pool, gym, running track, rugby and cricket pitches, a shooting range and outdoor assault course.

Duke of York's is proud of its pupils' academic achievements and its GCSE results are double the national average: in 2011, more than 90 per cent of pupils gained five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent, including English and maths, with more than 95 per cent passing at A-level. More than 90 per cent of the school's students choose to go on to university.

With a focus on leadership, self-discipline, respect and teamwork, along with ceremonial parades, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and Combined Cadet Force are at the heart of the school. As Duke of York's is full boarding, your children will never be bored as they are kept busy with more than 70 clubs and activities from which to choose.

Kay Pott, wife of Major Mick Pott MBE of the Parachute Regiment, who has a son at the school, said: "The school has been fantastic – we are over the moon with the way they've brought our son on, we can't praise them enough. We feel he's done better academically than he would have at another school. I really value the school's ethos. They instil respect for yourself and others, and build up self-esteem so the children become confident young men and women."

The school, which became an academy last year, has been awarded £24.9m to transform boarding houses and teaching facilities. In 2010, it received £9.5m from its academy sponsor, the Ministry of Defence, to build a sixth-form boarding house.

The academy's specialities are science, sports, music and outdoor education.

MIDKENT COLLEGE

Making learning more interesting

THERE was once a time when the 'chalk and talk' method of teaching was all most school and college students received.

While such traditional techniques still have a place in education today, it is imperative classroom leaders realise children react differently to different ways of learning.

MidKent College is one such establishment where its learners are treated as individuals, and where textbooks are occasionally thrown aside for less conventional forms of teaching.

"We get some students who tell us they hate maths, but what they really hate is how they were taught maths at school," said Level 2 course tutor Steven Keevil.

"It's that old maxim where if you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got.

"Some people respond well to traditional class-based learning, but those who don't need an opportunity to try different things. That's why at the college we'll sometimes teach angles by playing pool or use music as a starting point for discussing other subjects."

MidKent College operates from its two main campuses at Maidstone and Gillingham – the latter being home to the sparkling new £86 Medway campus – and from September 2012 will take over the building in Maidstone currently occupied by the University for the Creative Arts.

SPARKLING: The college's Medway campus

Having existed for more than a century, the college has played a massive part in the training and development of countless learners across the county who have gone on to become important members of the business community.

And with better facilities and a wider range of vocational courses than ever before, it is well placed to continue to provide the best car mechanics, hairdressers, electricians and more who will keep our communities ticking.

Emma Wilkinson, A-level lecturer in history and politics, said it was hugely important to use a range of teaching methods.

"It's essential because it helps keep learners' attention, which has a knock-on effect on behaviour and class management," she said.

"We try to cater for everyone's needs because everyone is different. If our learners know we'll occasionally do something outside the box that they really enjoy, they're more likely to try other things, too. There's still a place for 'chalk and talk' teaching, but you need a bit of everything."

Students in Mrs Wilkinson's politics class recently emulated the likes of Prime Minister David Cameron and Labour Party leader Ed Miliband by performing and filming their own party-political broadcasts in front of each other.

"Hopefully they'll remember doing this years from now," she said. "People tend to remember the trips they went on at school or the more unusual lessons they had, which most of the time means they were effective teaching techniques.

"Some of my students would have felt nervous speaking in front of their classmates, but hopefully they won't forget it."

• Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for details.

UKE

IT needs are put in focus

KENT County Council is joining forces with Microsoft UK and up-skilling group Uke Learning to provide opportunities for young people seeking careers in IT

Employment of IT professionals is set to rise by 113,000 jobs in the four years from the end of 2011 to the end of 2015, up from a 2011 base of 1,450,000, according to industry analysts.

However, the numbers of entrants into IT from higher education are not rising fast enough to match demand, hence the need for apprenticeships.

The requirement for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)- qualified people stretches from engineering and pharmaceuticals to financial services – further challenging the number of available graduates. According to industry research, the UK just isn't training enough people at this time.

Microsoft and Uke Learning will be further developing their apprenticeship model to a higher level, and with university tuition fees rising next year many young people will be looking for alternatives to full-time higher education where they can get a credible and relevant qualification at degree level.

Mick Durham, director of Uke Learning, says that employers are waking up to the relevance of apprenticeships where potential staff gain the academic knowledge needed at the same time as gaining relevant workplace experience.

KCC cabinet member Mike Whiting says that apprenticeships such as the one offered by Microsoft, IT Skillsman and Uke Learning gives young people the opportunity to achieve industry-recognised qualifications while getting on-the-job training.

Last month three young men from Kent, Raymond Brett, Mitch Wright and Aidan Edwards, started their career in IT with a two-day induction at Microsoft's campus in Reading.

Pictured with their Uke Learning tutor in the accompanying advertisement, they joined young apprentices from all over the UK.

If you live in Kent and are considering a career in IT, contact Uke Learning by email (bdt@ukelearning.com) or phone (020 8810 6066), or visit www.ukelearning.com.

If you are an organisation willing to participate in the apprenticeship scheme, please contact microsoft.apprentice@itskillsman.co.uk.

CNCA

We care for our staff so that they can care for you

CNCA is Kent's most respected independent nursing and care agency and the leading provider of training for professional care in the community.

Since 1993, CNCA has been providing qualified carers, support workers, residential social-workers, care assistants and companions to the NHS, Social Services, private hospitals and trusts, nursing homes, residential homes, day-care centres and housing associations across Kent.

A key contribution of the agency is its support of adults with learning difficulties, in homes and in the community, so that they can lead as independent lives as possible.

The agency operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. It has established a reputation for responding quickly, providing the highest standards in professional care and exceeding expectation in terms of client satisfaction.

In a changing business environment, CNCA maintains the highest traditional standards but offers innovative solutions to the modern care industry.

It can provide trained, qualified staff at a moment's notice; and it develops flexible long-term programmes that provide clients with the right kind of carers exactly where and when needed.

CNCA has rigorous training induction procedures for its own staff and has established a Training and Assessment Centre to provide in-house NVQ supervision and assessment for all major care disciplines.

Every day it looks to see where it can improve, accepting and understanding its responsibilities. It will act without hesitation to do all that is required and more.

Sometimes people face 'extraordinary' problems in their lives, some expected, others unique situations that occur out of the blue.

What is meant by 'extraordinary' is a problem faced outside the realm of 'ordinary' lives. For instance, a loved one might be enduring some form of physical disability, or a family member experiencing the after-effects of a serious operation; a child might be born with severe learning difficulties, or autism; or, indeed, a parent could have have grown too old to safely fend for themselves.

Each situation poses its own problems and difficulties. Each comes wrapped in its own unique circumstances, not only for the family but more importantly for the person who requires support and care to help them live as 'ordinary' a life as possible.

If you are facing an extraordinary situation, the question is: 'Where do I turn for help?'. The first port of call is usually, and appropriately, Social Services, who will try to help find a solution to your problem.

Unfortunately, many changes are taking place in the care sector and more emphasis is placed on the individual to arrange their own carers.

Herein lies the difficulty and possibly another dilemma for the family. CNCA has been helping people throughout Kent for more than 13 years, supporting families and their loved ones at home with qualified carers and support workers.

All staff undertake rigorous police and other statutory checks, a full induction process that examines both their qualifications and references and undergo regular training designed to keep them one step ahead of requirements.

Once a comprehensive needs assessment is carried out, the appropriate care is delivered and maintained.

CNCA operates a 24-hour service 365 days a year, manned by care co-ordinators who have detailed knowledge of each individual's needs.

Kim Stevens, chief executive officer of CNCA, said: "We are committed to providing the best care services and the best care training in the region."

If you require help, please call 01233 619530, or, if you prefer, email info@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk.

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SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional OHAC, WLTM male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388484**

TALL slim, blonde female, kind, caring, honest, seeks older male, 78 plus to treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378233**

LCHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**

IFE is too short to live it alone! Eve, attractive blonde blue eyed bubbly lady looking for similar genuine tactile person for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378011**

TAMMY young 31yr old good looking brunette with no ties, seeking fun romantic guy for meals out, cosy nights in and more. No time wasters pls. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378009**

HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTM male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

WHERE have all the good men gone? Cassie slim attractive female with lots of love to give, seeking similar sensitive companion. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377529**

AMELIA fun, loving, late 40's, blonde, attractive, likes walks, meals out, seeks similar white male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377657**

DIANA attractive lady, OHAC, blue eyes, fair hair, 5ft 4ins, slim, 60, seeks caring gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376803**

BERYL 68, ex nurse, lonely, seeking gent of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376711**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hangups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557**

CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

CARING 41yr old genuine single mum, wanting LTR with caring man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377907**

DOREEN 70's, 5ft 7ins, medium build, green eyes, likes sports, walks, Irish/country music, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377371**

JULIE long haired blonde with big blue eyes and size 12 figure, loves good wine, meals out, good conversation, WLTM young at heart male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377533**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist, well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional man, 60ish for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375741**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

GENUINE honest, curvy lady modern, smart, friendly, seeking genuine gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376275**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371399**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

TANYA 35, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220**

SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321**

VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205**

AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371577**

MIKE 56, 5ft 10ins, medium build, grey hair, brown eyes, caring, loving, kind, understanding, likes walks, countryside, cinema, theatre, bowling, social drink, seeks slim-medium build female, 28-42. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673**

MARK 38, 5ft 9ins, athletic build, seeks professional female, slim, 28-48 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379665**

ROBERT 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, medium build, seeks sincere, caring female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377785**

52YR old male, honest, reliable, seeks slim female, 40-48 for friendship, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377747**

JAMES intelligent, lively, professional writer, 54, based in Canterbury, kind, witty, no children/baggage, seeks lively lady, 35-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376787**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

MATURE man, enjoys life, socialising, N/S, solvent OHAC, seeks attractive lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378803**

LEE seeks nice female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388286**

DAVID 60's, 5ft 9ins, N/S, likes dogs, walks, aviation, WLTM N/S local lady for fun nights and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378549**

JAMES professional, 50's, 5ft 10ins, well travelled, seeks sensual, feminine, slim lady, 35-52, any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376723**

Men Seeking

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PAUL afro Caribbean male, British born, 50's, likes theatre, pubs, clubs, fun times, seeks vivacious, intelligent, good looking lady, 27-46 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379863**

MARK 62, reliable, trustworthy, varied interests, seeks understanding, romantic lady, 47-67 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379809**

TALL dark handsome male, 46, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388512**

JIM 50, genuine, honest, kind, seeks female with similar values for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379659**

JOHN 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, varied interests, seeks romantic, down to earth, understanding, cuddly lady, 55-67. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379645**

PHILIP young 58, looking for N/S romantic, beautiful lady, under 50, any race for excitement, love, romance. Own home in France and England, love food and much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379631**

MALE 58, widow, 5ft 8ins, cuddly, blue eyes, seeks female for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388448**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, likes holidays, cinema, countryside, meals out, walks, seeks genuine female for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379313**

JAG mid 40's, likes nights out, socialising, wining/dining, reading, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388322**

INEXPERIENCED 40 something male, seeks mature female for fun, companionship and education in life's little pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377871**

VIC tall, slim, N/S, 62, divorced, honest, employed, seeks nice girl for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388130**

RICHARD 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, no ties, varied interests, seeks romantic, understanding, cuddly lady, 51-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377835**

NICK 41 no ties, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388590**

MALE seeks outgoing, sensual, tactile, mature female, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388582**

TALL intelligent man, late 40's, fit, enjoys outdoors, meals out, seeking discreet female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379877**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, meals out, country walks, cinema, seeking a happy LTR, 36-62. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379715**

Gay Seeking

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(T&C's below)

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

PAUL looking for someone for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379827**

MARTIN bi CD, 50's, seeks similar for fun times. Can accommodate or travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374351**

BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-60's for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943**

ALAN experienced bi male, seeks similar guy or couple for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379059**

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Your business is our business

Generation could 'disappear from workplace' warns business leader

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ACTION needs to be taken to stop an entire generation "disappearing from the workforce", according to a leading voice in the county's business community

The latest unemployment statistics for the UK show that youth unemployment has reached 1.02 million, female unemployment is 1.09 million and overall unemployment is at a 17-year high of 2.62 million.

Roger House, chairman for the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Kent and Medway, said: "Youth unemployment figures are truly shocking and with more than one million young people unable to find a job, the Government must wake up and take action to turn this around.

"Its Autumn Statement is the perfect time to do this."

House added that he felt Kent had been treated unfairly by Westminster when it came to incentives to create jobs.

He said: "The FSB has long argued for a National Insurance contributions cut for micro-businesses as a way of creating jobs. It is not logical or fair that affluent areas of the west and north of the UK enjoy these benefits when deprived areas of Kent are disqualified.

CONCERN: FSB's Roger House wants tax cuts to help ease youth unemployment

"As a first step towards that goal, a measure the Government could adopt would be to cut National Insurance contributions for those aged between 16-24 taken on in a new job in a micro-business. This measure would target tax cuts where they are most needed and halt rising youth unemployment.

"The Government must ensure that young people are not hindered at the very beginning of their careers.

"This policy would help achieve that and at the same time improve the climate small firms trade in. We cannot afford to watch this generation just disappear from the workforce."

Kent and Medway has 35,402 registered as unemployed in the latest figures – up 85 on the previous assessment made in July.

Medway has 7,118 unemployed – an actual decrease of two. Thanet has the next largest number at 4,570 but again saw a recent fall, this time of 17.

But Swale saw 50 more people out of work, bringing the total to 3,316, and Shepway 56 more, totalling 2,652.

Canterbury – which has a large number of public-sector workers employed in schools and hospitals and by local authorities – saw an increase in the jobless total of 74 to 2,426.

The scale of Britain's youth unemployment has alarmed experts, who warn of dire consequences for the future.

Martina Milburn, chief executive of the youth charity The Prince's Trust, said youth unemployment reaching the symbolic one million mark was "a wake-up call for Britain".

The Prince's Trust has undertaken research pointing to the devastating impact of unemployment on young people, which it described as "a mental health hazard" that can trigger problems such as self-loathing, panic attacks and depression.

Samuel Tombs, UK economist at the consultancy Capital Economics, said: "It [the figure] will raise fears of a lost generation."

ACCOUNTANCY

Free consultations on offer for SME owners

A KENT accountancy is trying a different way of boosting custom by offering free consultations and business advice to prospective clients.

McBrides, recently short-listed in the AccountingWEB Practice Excellence Awards, is among the first in Kent to register with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales as a Business Advice Service firm.

Small and medium-business owner-managers have the opportunity to discuss their business ideas with a qualified chartered accountant through a free consultation.

Managing partner Nick Paterno said: "McBrides has a 35-year track record of helping owner-managed and entrepreneurial businesses achieve their goals and we have always been more than simply 'an accountant' to our clients.

"Registration with the ICAEW's new BAS scheme reaffirms our commitment to the business community in that we are able to offer sound business advice, from start-up through to exit. This not only takes a huge weight off their minds but ensures their businesses are running at optimum capacity."

McBrides Accountants LLP is based in Nexus House, Sidcup, just off the A20, and has a total of 42 highly qualified staff and six partners.

FOOD

Manufacturer's development plan helps firm win at industry 'Oscars'

A KENT company has been named one of the UK's best food and drink manufacturers at the final of the industry's equivalent to the Oscars.

Ardo UK was among the finalists in the prestigious Food Manufacturing Excellence Awards 2011, at London's Park Plaza Riverbank.

The company, which has invested £15 million on a new factory equipped with the latest technology and processing equipment, was congratulated on the way it had developed its business despite crop shortages, adverse exchange rates and recessionary pressures.

It has also reduced its accident rates, cut its carbon footprint and increased manufacturing efficiency as well as focusing heavily on waste and energy reduction.

Ardo UK sources, freezes and packs frozen vegetables, fruit, rice and pasta which it supplies to supermarkets, independent shops, caterers and food manufacturers, employing more than 200 people at its Charing base.

Managing director Stephen Waugh said: "We are delighted the hard work of our staff has been recognised.

"These are challenging economic times, but we feel our recent investment has been extremely worthwhile and has resulted in a more streamlined operation."

Ardo UK is part of Ardo, one of Europe's largest food companies. Based in Belgium, it has 15 production and packing units in eight European countries, with an annual turnover in excess of 600 million euros.

CONSTRUCTION

Awards seminar good news for construction

H & K SAFETY Services Limited of Ashford has held its third annual awards seminar in the mansion house at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, attracting 50 representatives from Kent construction companies and designer consultants.

Awards went to Betacove Ltd, Civils Contracting Ltd, DCB (Kent) Ltd, DMA Mechanical & Air Conditioning Ltd, Epps Construction Ltd, Geoforte Ground Engineering Ltd, Logan Construction Ltd, The NPS Group, PA Grant Electrical Contractors Ltd and WW Martin (Thanet) Ltd.

Individual outstanding achievement awards this year went to Terry Beer (DMA), Ricky Olsen (Betacove), Julia Robinson (WWM) and Alex Wren (Geoforte).

A spokesman for H & K said "The awards are good news in an industry suffering badly at the moment and are hard earned as, unlike the majority of these schemes, ours is based on performance across the whole life of the project, with tough competition when you consider around 700 site inspections are made each year.

"Importantly, a big thank-you is due to the staff at Port Lympne who made the event very special."

HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RENEWABLES

THANKS: Debbie McSwiney and Gary Mayatt

Green-energy gift boosts children's hospice funds

DEMELZA Hospice Care for Children has received a green energy gift from a Dartford renewables company.

The roof of the Sittingbourne children's hospice is now home to a 20-panel solar photovoltaic installation, donated and installed by Enevis.

The solar PV system, which converts daylight into electricity, will provide annual energy savings of £355 and tax-free Feed-In Tariff returns of £1,500 – bringing £1,855 each year into Demelza's funds, much-needed money that can be used to provide care for more than 700 life-limited children.

The installation also boasts strong green credentials, with CO_2 savings of 2.1 tonnes per year.

Debbie McSwiney, deputy head of care at Demelza, said: "We are delighted that Enevis are supporting Demelza by providing solar panels free of charge for our Sittingbourne hospice.

"Not only will this enable us to have a sustainable and green-energy source but we will be saving a considerable amount of money, which will mean more resources can be spent directly on caring for the families who need our help."

Gary Mayatt, managing director of Enevis, said: "We were delighted that Demelza Hospice Care for Children agreed to accept our solar PV donation. The system will enable the hospice to make substantial savings to its energy bills while also generating its own income from the Government's tax-free Feed-in Tariff.

"The additional £1,855 will help Demelza continue to offer its dedicated care service to children suffering from life-limiting illnesses as well as invaluable support to their families."

Consultancy's 'five-point' guide for employers ahead of reforms to pension plan

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN EMPLOYEE benefit consultant company has issued a five-point pension-reforms checklist to ensure employers are prepared for a major amendment to legislation.

Brunning Newman Houghton Limited (BNH), based in Tunbridge Wells, compiled the detailed five-step plan to provide businesses with an introduction to the Workplace Pension Reforms (WPR).

Under the new legislation, from 2012 every employer will be required to automatically enrol their workers into a qualifying pension scheme if they have not already joined a scheme. Employers must also pay contributions on behalf of their employees.

BNH's five-point plan leads businesses through the WPR process; from planning ahead of their 'staging date' through to the establishment of an implementation team and communicating the changes to all scheme members.

Tim Mills, senior consultant at BNH, said: "It is important to appreciate that every employer will be affected by this legislation and it represents a significant change to the present set of regulations.

"This checklist offers guidance to employers who either operate an existing pension plan or for those who currently do not provide pensions for employees."

"Employers who do not operate a pension scheme at present will possibly have the most work to do. Accordingly, this group should take extra care when planning to allow sufficient time for the necessary systems upgrades [HR and payroll] to get a suitable pension arrangement in place, plus the all-important communications to employees."

PENSION REFORMS CHECKLIST

1 KNOW YOUR 'STAGING DATE'

BNH can help employers establish their 'staging date' or businesses can find their 'staging date' from the list published by The Pensions Regulator (TPR), which can be found here: http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/staging-date-timeline.aspx#s4566.

2 START THE PLANNING PROCESS

FOR employers with an existing staff pension scheme, the process should start by assessing whether your current scheme meets the qualifying criteria for existing active members, reviewing the scheme to confirm if it can be used for automatic enrolment of new members and ensuring contribution levels are adequate to meet the legislative requirements.

Those who do not currently operate a pension scheme for employees will need to ensure that a suitable 'qualifying workplace pension scheme' (QWPS) is in place in good time before their duties commence.

BNH recommends that this work is started at least 12 months before your 'staging date'

3 CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON ANY EXISTING SCHEME OR SCHEMES

BNH review service will check present arrangements for compliance, or make recommendations for a suitable scheme if employers do not currently operate a workplace pension scheme.

4 ESTABLISH AN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

BNH would advise firms to ensure they understand the key legal requirements and timeframes, assess the impact on systems (payroll and HR processes) and engage with their pension advisers at the earliest opportunity.

5 COMMUNICATE THE CHANGES TO ALL SCHEME MEMBERS

IT IS normally the job of the pension-scheme adviser to communicate the benefits of membership and, bearing in mind the significant changes being introduced through this legislation, BNH would recommend that a suitable programme be agreed and implemented as part of the timetabling for this process.

MAN WITH A PLAN: Tim Mills, senior consultant at BNH Limited

High-speed broadband roll-out is good news for south east businesses

BT is boosting its engineering workforce in Kent with 44 new recruits to work on its super-fast broadband expansion.

The new engineers will be based in Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and many of them will be ex-Armed Forces personnel.

They are joining BT over the next few weeks to help the company deliver fibre-based broadband to two-thirds of UK homes and businesses by the end of 2014, a year ahead of the original target of 2015.

All the new engineers are due to be in place by the end of January.

John Weaver, BT regional director for the South East, said the acceleration of the £2.5 billion programme would help stimulate the economy, drive regional growth and benefit communities keen to experience the technology.

He said: "The new jobs will help us to support and create the digital infrastructure the county needs for the jobs of tomorrow. Our current engineering teams are busy installing fibre broadband across Kent at a pace we believe rivals anywhere in the world – and our new recruits will help us take the new technology to even more homes and businesses.

"We have made clear our determination to extend fibre broadband beyond our current commercial deployment plans, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the public sector to reach the more challenging parts of the region.

"We have a strong track record of delivering broadband partnerships, we're prepared to commit significant sums to make it happen and our growing, flexible workforce will help ensure we are ready for action in any part of the country.

"We are proud that many of these new jobs will be filled by ex-Armed Forces personnel, who are highly skilled, motivated and have experience of complex engineering tasks in challenging environments."

The announcement was welcomed by Malcolm Hyde, South East CBI regional director, who said: "This is good news from BT. These are skilled, high-quality jobs which will make a major contribution to the future success of our region.

"The roll-out of super-fast broadband is one of the most important investments taking place in the South East. It can transform the way we live and work and play a key role in building a stronger business community."

■ **For the latest jobs in Kent – with more than 1,500 advertised – visit our website www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**

Business park to retain steam railway links during expansion

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EXPANSION at a thriving west Kent business park is to incorporate an important part of the county's steam-railway heritage.

Earlier this year, development plans to build 12,000 sq ft and 20,000 sq ft units at the Hawhurst Station Business Park were approved, with parts of the former railway site to be incorporated.

The station, which closed in 1961, was survived by an old steam-engine shed and signal box, still painted in Southern Railway colours.

The 14-acre site, just off the A299 between Hawhurst and Cranbrook, will see further development, but park-owner Peter Dunlop is keen to protect Kent's railway heritage.

He said: "We have worked closely with the planning authorities to agree a way of enhancing facilities here while preserving the history of steam railways in Kent.

"One option we are considering is to relocate the signal box to the Kent & East Sussex Railway at Tenterden."

Dunlop's family business, Kent Woodware, marks its 100th anniversary on Tuesday, December 13, after a century on the site.

He said: "My grandfather started the company in 1911 when he rented land on the old railway-station site. We used to manufacture wooden components for the bedding, brush and tool handle trades.

"My father bought the site when the station closed in 1961, and when I joined in 1966 trade was booming, while the business park was also attracting other traders.

"By the 1990s it was no longer economical for us to continue and we ceased manufacturing, but in 2001 I restarted the business."

The businessman has also commissioned design and construction company Directline Structures to develop the environmentally-sensitive site by adding steel-framed industrial units.

He said: "I have been delighted with the quality of their work. They have kept to schedule and to budget, and they deal with all the planning and technical issues, leaving me free to get on with running my business.

"It is reassuring to know they are on the case."

There has been interest in the newly-built units from farther afield, but they have been quickly snapped up by two companies already operating from the site.

Family-owned food import and distributor Maws Fine Foods will take one of the units, while desserts-manufacturer Rhokett also needed larger premises to expand their businesses.

Duncan Murray, from Directline Structures, said: "Maws move into the new unit from the engine shed on the site, while Rhokett is expanding from another unit we built five years ago.

"It's very encouraging to see existing tenants committing their futures to this part of Kent."

The units should be completed by February 2012.

MODERN TWIST: Hawkhurst Station Business Park is incorporating parts of the former railway site

RETAIL

FULL HOUSE: Fremlin Walk centre in Maidstone

Shopping mall expects full unit uptake during the Christmas period

MAIDSTONE'S Fremlin Walk management team has claimed that all shop units will be full during the Christmas rush.

Despite huge competition from Bluewater shopping centre, Hempstead Valley and Chatham high street, the Fremlin Walk group says the recent additions have proved the town centre is attractive to both businesses and customers alike.

Lloyd Wright, centre manager at Fremlin Walk, is confident the new shopping sector will be jam-packed this festive season.

He said: "Given the retailer interest, our 0 per cent vacancy rate and the investment in the town-centre regeneration, it is clear that Maidstone has a bright future.

"We have a stylish offer that is reflective of what our catchment area demands.

"Despite reports in the trade press which list towns like Maidstone as being 'hard hit' by recession, our retailers trade well and we have excellent relationships with them."

Top clothes retailer Superdry has recently taken up a unit and will be fully let by Christmas, while other units have been taken up by House of Fraser, Zara, Laura Ashley, Pret a Manger and Pandora.

The town centre is also showing figures of shop vacancies at 10 per cent, below the national average of 14 per cent.

Wine merchant given invaluable help on voyage to set up shop in Far East

GOOD CHEER: Robert Lench

A SPECIALIST wine merchant based in Sevenoaks is celebrating the opening of an office in Hong Kong this month with advice and support from UK Trade & Investment (UKTI).

BWI Ltd's speciality is the wines of the Bordeaux region. It covers all aspects of the wine-distribution business and even has its own wine-producing chateau in France, Chateau Carignan, bought in 2007.

The firm was established in 1998 by Andy Lench as a UK-based sister company to Bordeaux Wine Locators, which he had formed after emigrating to the US. BWI was set up to offer wine opportunities for private clients looking to buy, collect, consume and invest in fine Bordeaux wine.

In 2003, Andy brought his brother Robert in as managing director to build the business internationally, using his background in financial services.

A prime focus of this development was to access the growing market for high-quality wines in the Far East, principally Hong Kong, but also Singapore and Malaysia amid others.

Robert recalled: "We were sending someone out to the Far East about three times a year, so it was clear that soon we would need a permanent presence in the region.

"In August 2010, to help make this happen, and to access expert advice on building our business in the region, I approached Terry Dunk, an international trade adviser with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) in the South East. Terry had been recommended to me by a whisky producer he had advised."

With financial and logistical support under UKTI's Tradeshow Access Programme, BWI was able to exhibit at the Hong Kong Wine & Spirits show in November 2010.

Meanwhile, UKTI staff at the British Consulate-General in Hong Kong have been providing local knowledge and contacts to facilitate the setting up of a BWI office in the territory, introducing Robert to hardware-suppliers to equip the operation, for example.

Prior to working with UKTI, BWI's sales turnover was £8.85 million, of which £1.51million (17 per cent) was from exports. Exports now comprise some 20 per cent of turnover, and the firm hopes to raise this to 30 per cent over the next 18 months.

"The support we have received from UKTI has enabled us to move the business forward more quickly than would otherwise have been possible," said Robert.

"I have been very impressed with all the UKTI staff I have encountered, both in the UK and in Hong Kong.

"It's one thing knowing our own business, but quite another knowing how to conduct it in a foreign market, and UKTI has been invaluable in this respect, with practical as well as theoretical assistance.

"Caroline Sprod in Hong Kong has been particularly supportive, while Terry Dunk at UKTI South East has put a lot of work in to strategic planning and familiarising us with the market."

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Local office: 01622 798700

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

College offers help to redundant workers

THANET College has launched a new series of programmes for people who have recently been made redundant, or are facing the prospect of losing their job.

If you are 19 or over and are either at risk of redundancy, or have been made redundant within the last three months, you could benefit from the Skills Support for Redundancy course run from a number of locations in Thanet.

The free programme gives candidates access to fully funded training opportunities, including re-training and gaining important qualifications.

Advice on writing a CV is on offer, as well as essential interview tips and support when making job applications.

All participants are also allocated a personal job broker, who aims to match each candidate with an employer, organise interviews and provide bespoke interview preparation.

The programmes are run from the Argyle Centre in Ramsgate, Margate's Mill House, the Golf Centre in Deal, and Thanet College's main campus in Broadstairs.

Attendance times depend on results of your initial assessment. The goal is to help people find work within 13 weeks of completing training with local employers such as Saga, Premier Inn and Wettons. Candidates have secured jobs across many industry sectors including leisure and tourism, retail and hospitality, and catering.

Thanet College has already helped 75 people into work, one of whom is Christopher McKeen, 23, who secured employment as a customer service agent at Saga after taking part in the course.

Chris lost confidence after being made redundant in March, and was referred to the course by Jobcentre Plus.

After receiving advice and guidance, as well as training in telephone and sales techniques, he was successful in an interview with Saga, starting work in July.

"The support I gained from the college has been absolutely brilliant. I am really enjoying my new job and being able to support my family," he said.

Also available is Thanet College's programme Skills Support for the Unemployed, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

For those struggling to find work, the programme helps them improve their job prospects, arranging training and providing access to jobs brokering.

Thanet College can also support young people aged 18-24 with gaining apprenticeship opportunities, depending on eligibility criteria.

Debbie Davies, 46, took part in the programme after being unemployed for six months.

She was directed into hospitality training, for which she achieved a certificate. She was then successful at interview with Premier Inn, where she now works as a housekeeper.

If you are interested in taking part, contact the employability team at the Argyle Centre on 01843 590241, or at Mill Lane House on 01843 230876.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

HELPING HAND: Practical advice to get back into work is available at Thanet College

Jobs for the first health apprentices

FOUR young people are celebrating securing full-time positions at Medway Community Healthcare after successfully completing the organisation's first apprenticeship scheme.

Since April, 2010, the apprentices have combined studying towards an NVQ in business administration with working at Medway Community Healthcare, which provides a range of health services for adults and children plus specialist, urgent and out of hours services.

The apprentices – Mary Everett, Liz Emery, Emma Waterman and Abi Durham – have now qualified and are working full-time in the organisation.

Mary Everett, 18, from Rainham said: "The apprenticeship has given me a head start in my career. I now have a professional qualification and a job. It has been the best thing that I could have done after leaving school."

Medway Community Healthcare have recruited a further seven apprentices who joined the scheme a year ago and is recruiting more young people to join the scheme this year.

Apprentices are supported throughout the course by an experienced 'buddy' colleague.

Swale women to get empowered

THE latest project from charity Diversity House is Swale Women Empowering Women, to help women achieve more in their lives and careers.

SWEW will aim to be a major source of support for all women living or working in Swale. It will offer a range activities and services to help women to improve their personal lives, career and business.

Through mentoring, coaching, volunteering, training, seminars, workshops, SWEW will give women the opportunity to explore and develop their business ideas and career goals; enhance their interpersonal skills and personal development; build confidence and self-esteem; gain focus; and get motivated.

Christine Locke, chairwoman of Diversity House, said: "Women empowerment is all about raising consciousness, building skills and promoting inclusion." Membership of SWEW is free.

For an application form, email info@diversity-house.org.uk or call 01795 420455.

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Young pupils learn a university lesson in the science of happiness

YEAR six school pupils have learned how to make a happy school during an event organised and run by psychologists at the University of Kent.

The How To Make a Happy School event involved children from Gillingham's Skinner Street Primary School and Brompton-Westbrook Primary School.

Pupils received training to become 'Young Scientists' and conduct their own investigation into what makes their school a happy place. Artist Tracey Falcon and Kent-based arts organisation People United worked on the programme with the university's psychology team.

The pupils visited the university's Canterbury campus, where they learned about the science of happiness, explored what makes people happy and how happiness is a 'superpower'.

They then created their own survey to find out what makes people in their school happy. Back at the school, they conducted their own research, questioning other children and teachers across the school.

In one school the '5 Fs' were clear frontrunners for happiness: fish and chips; Fridays, friends; family; and fun. The pupils then got creative and made their own happiness superhero.

Child development specialist at the university Dr Lindsey Cameron said: "We need to find out what makes young people happy, and who better to investigate this than young people themselves."

Mechanics brushing up on their car computer knowledge

DEMO: Technical Topics director James Dillon

MOTOR mechanics revved up their knowledge of the diesel engine at a free event held at MidKent College's Maidstone Campus.

Garages and other motoring firms from across the county were represented at the event, which was organised by the west Kent member association of the Institute of the Motor Industry.

Held in one of the campus' purpose-built motor vehicle workshops, the event included a demonstration by James Dillon of the diagnostics training body Technical Topics.

He said: "It's critical that mechanics constantly seek to update their knowledge. The type of technology used in the design of cars is advancing at a rapid pace, so you can't just rely on the things you learned when you first started out.

"The industry has gone from having no computers in cars in the 1980s to about 70 today. It's phenomenal."

Included in Mr Dillon's demonstration was information on how to get the best from an oscilloscope – a form of diagnostic equipment used to detect engine faults.

West Kent IMI chairman and former MidKent College tutor Fred Holmes said the Maidstone campus's workshops were ideal for hosting such events.

He added: "They're very useful because they have all the equipment we need and are a great place to give practical demonstrations.

"We're always keen to run events like this for our members because it's vital for their continued professional development."

Turner Contemporary art gallery head wins top education award

THE head of learning at Turner Contemporary in Margate has won a prestigious education award.

Karen Esleay won one of four inaugural Marsh Awards for Excellence in Gallery Education, presented at a special evening event run by engage, the National Association for Gallery Education.

Turner Contemporary says learning is at the heart of its work, and it runs a Learning Programme that encompasses schools, community group projects and family activities.

Karen has been working closely with local people for more than 10 years in the run up to the opening of the gallery in April 2011.

She said: "My role has been to ensure that local people feel involved in the development of the gallery, and see it as a valuable resource."

More 690,000 people were involved in the work of Turner Contemporary before the gallery opened, and over 14,000 people have taken part in its learning programme.

Karen added: "I am really proud to have won a Marsh Award for Excellence in Gallery Education.

"It is a privilege to work for Turner Contemporary, and to develop projects with the local community. We know we have a positive impact on people's lives, and working with artists and people of all ages is endlessly interesting and rewarding."

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BIRTHS

APPLETON
Liz and Rob of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Stanley Sinclair Appleton, born on 6th November 2011 at QEQM Hospital, weighing 8lb 8oz. A brother for Archie.

BOOTHER
Lynne and Paul would like to announce the birth of Amy Grace, born on 2nd November 2011 at the Singleton Unit Ashford. A sister for Emma, a grand daughter for Ron and Joan Hunter and Sid and Julie Boother.

CONWAY
Maryjane Conway born on 2nd November 2011 weighing 6lb 7oz.

FRASER
Benjamin James Fraser born on 12th November 2011 weighing 8lbs. Son to Emma Wilkins and Tim Fraser of Folkestone

LEADON
Yasmin Willow born on 4th November 2011, weighing 6lbs 10oz. Daughter to Richard and Gemma and baby sister to Blake.

LLOYD-CLARK
Betsy Buttercup born on 7th November 2011, weighing 8lbs 9oz. Daughter to Sarah and Michael from Maidstone.

PETERS
Chris and Amy of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Noah Christopher. Noah was born on 17th November 2011 at 2.31pm weighing 8lb 7oz.. A new brother for Olivia and Molly.

RAYMOND
Lee and Lauren celebrate the birth of their son Cruz Lee Lewis Stewart Charles Raymond on 5th November 2011, weighing 6lb 6oz.

TIBBLES
James and Katy Tibbles of Folkestone celebrate the birth of their daughter Eliza Jane on 9th November 2011. Special thanks to Grandma for her love and support

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The school is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to obtaining a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. The closing date for applications is 30 November 2011, and interviews will be on 7 December 2011.

To obtain an application form and job description, please contact the school on 01474 352488 or email office@dover-road.kent.sch.uk alternatively apply via

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24.5 hours a week, term time only.

(Mon, Wed & Fri 9:00 - 3:30 pm; Tue 12:30 - 3:30 pm; Thu 9:00 - 12:30 pm)

Salary according to experience - £6.08 - £8.00 per hour

You are welcome to contact Melissa Prince (01795 430629) for a preliminary discussion or visit, if desired. Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Primary School (Mrs Pollard) or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications - Friday, 2/12/11; Interviews - Wednesday, 7/12/11

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886

Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk

www.westlands.org.uk

Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons
Manager of Nursery: Mrs Melissa Prince

Westlands Academies Trust
Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF

Company No 7344732

Link
Qualified Teachers Urgently Required
September Posts & Supply Work
Throughout Kent & SE London
Run by Teachers for Teachers
Supply Teachers
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www.link-education.co.uk

OAKWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Independent Appeals Panel Members

Applications are invited for volunteers to become Panel Members serving on an Independent Education Appeal Panel, mainly in May 2012. Full training will be given in early January and expenses paid. Successful applicants will be one of three panel members hearing appeals for admission. Qualifications comprise an interest in education, good team work, decision-making and inter-personal skills.

For further details and to register your interest, please contact
Ms T. Williamson, PA to Headteacher
Tel: 01622 726683
or e-mail twilliamson@opgs.org
Closing date: 9th December 2011

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

LECTURER IN HAIRDRESSING

FIXED TERM UNTIL 25TH MARCH 2013

Thanet College is looking to recruit a lecturer to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Hair and Beauty curriculum.

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year

Closing date: Wednesday 30th November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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Preventing Discrimination

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LECTURER IN BEAUTY THERAPY AND MAKE UP

&

LECTURER IN BEAUTY THERAPY AND NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Thanet College is looking to recruit two lecturers to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Hair and Beauty curriculum.

Salary Scale: £12,799 - £15,103 for 18.5 hours per week all year

Closing date: Wednesday 30th November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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01622 623114

www.recruitmentsense.com

Westlands Academies Trust

WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XN

Teaching Assistant

Required Immediately

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various learning difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis.

30 hours a week, term time only.

£12,903 - £15,984 (pro rata)

(equal to £8,627 - £10,687 depending on experience)

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications - Monday, 5/12/11; Interviews - Friday, 9/12/11.

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886
Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons

Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF
Company No 7344732

Westlands Academies Trust

Westlands School

PART TIME CATERING ASSISTANT

To work in a busy school kitchen

Required to cover Maternity Leave

10 hours per week (12 - 2pm) 39 weeks per year

Hourly rate: £6.68 - £7.30

Food preparation/cooking experience and a basic food hygiene certificate preferred, but if you have a positive attitude, good practical skills and are willing to work, we will teach you.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 30 November 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Clever Clowns Nursery
Howard de Walden Community Centre, Bluett Street, Maidstone
Has a vacancy for a

DEPUTY MANAGER

From January 2012, Term Time only, 4/5 morning sessions per week
Qualifications required: NVQ 3 in Childcare or equivalent
Please ring Sue on **0845 2300 695**
For Job Description and Application Form
Closing Date 30/11/11

WELLNESS COACHES
REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition companylooking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716

Westlands Academies Trust

WESTLANDS SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Due to an internal promotion, we require a

SECRETARY

37 hours per week
Salary starting at £14,099 rising to £15,984 per annum (depending on experience)
(equal to £12,708 - £14,408) pro rata

Term time plus Staff Development Days and 3 weeks in school holidays with a minimum of 25 days paid holiday a year (pro rata).

Applicants should ideally have experience of working in a busy office, together with relevant computer and word-processing skills. Knowledge of SIMS would be an advantage. Applicants should have a minimum of RSA 2 and GCSE Grade C or equivalent in English Language.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.
Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.
Closing date: Friday 9th December 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - City of Canterbury

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB386 (PART) AT PETHAM)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 15th November 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered CB386, which commences at NGR TR 1027 5018 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 135 metres to its connection with bridleway CB391 at NGR TR 1036 5007 (point B on the Order plan), to a new length of footpath CB386 with a width of 2.5 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a southerly direction for 150 metres to its connection with bridleway CB391 (point C on the Order plan), 83 metres south-west of the aforementioned point B.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the confirmed Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 15th November 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 27th November 2011, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - City of Canterbury

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB15 (PART)
AT ST COSMUS & ST DAMIAN IN THE BLEAN)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered CB15, which commences at NGR TR 1365 6110 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a west-south-westerly direction for 106 metres to NGR TR 1355 6107 (point B on the Order plan), to a new length of footpath CB15 with a width of 2.5 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-north-westerly direction for 19 metres (to Point C on the Order plan), thence in a west-south-westerly direction for 98 metres (to point D on the Order plan) and thence in a south-south-easterly direction for 26 metres to its connection with Tyler Hill Road (U11539) at NGR TR 1355 6106 (point E on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representations about or objections to the Order should be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (Tel: 01622 696871) before 30th December 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - District of Sevenoaks

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR612 IN THE PARISH OF EDENBRIDGE

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR612)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SR612, between Hever Road and the junction with Public Footpath SR559 (NGR TQ 459 456) from 9th December 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen on Monday 12th December 2011.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Mrs N Biddall

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT43 (PART) AT HILDENBOROUGH)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 8 November 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that part of public footpath MT43 which commences at its connection with public footpaths MT41 & MU65 at NGR TQ 5783 4747 and runs in a south-south-westerly direction for 107 metres to its connection with public footpath MU23 at NGR TQ 5779 4737, and by adding a public footpath numbered MT419, with a width of 1.5 metres, which commences on public footpath MT41 at NGR TQ 5778 4750 and runs in a south-south-westerly direction for 120 metres to its connection with public footpath MT43 at NGR TQ 5773 4739.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 16 January 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 27th November 2011**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Darenth Valley Golf Course, Station Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks**
Applicant: **Mrs Deborah Terry**
Name of Premises: **Hatherleigh, The Green, Matfield, Tonbridge**
Applicant: **Mrs Jennifer Chambers**

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: The St James's Street site: Land north of Townwall Street and generally south of the properties fronting Castle Street between Dolphin Lane and Woolcomber Street, Dover (but excluding the 5-9 St James's Street and all properties in Russell Street) together with the site of 9 King Street and a property fronting Flying Horse Lane and highway land in Woolcomber Street, Castle Street and Russell Street as shown on the site plan

I give notice that: Bond City Ltd

is applying to the: Dover District Council

for planning permission to: Demolition of existing buildings and carrying out of a development to provide 10469m² of new retail (A1) floorspace in 3 main blocks with potential for additional retail accommodation of 4930m² at mezzanine level, 78m² of retail in a temporary kiosk to Flying Horse Lane, 215m² of A3/A4 floorspace and 8 residential units with associated car parking and highway works

Any owner* of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at**

Planning Dpt, Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

By: 17 December 2011

* "owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than 7 years, or, in the case of development consisting of the winning or working of minerals, a person entitled to an interest in a mineral in the land (other than oil, gas, coal, gold or silver).

** "tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Signed Clifford Rance MRTPI
On behalf of Bond City Ltd
Date 26 November 2011

Statement of owners' rights
The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights
The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01743/FUL: 48 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8TX Replacement windows. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr R Sperring** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01814/VAR: 1 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Variation of condition 02 of planning permission CA/09/02023/FUL to allow the substitution of the elevations shown on drawing WHT/PL/03 rev A with those shown on drawings CAS/KSA/0100/AA/01200 Rev 04 and CAS/KSA/0100/AA/0201 Rev 04, changes to openings/fenestration. **Applicant: Mr Herbert** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01816/FUL: 70 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HL Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr O Double** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01842/FUL: Littlebrook, The Street, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RP Erection of conservatory to rear elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs Sturrock** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01854/FUL: 96 Station Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QA Part-demolition of existing building and erection of replacement two-storey extension with accommodation in the roof space and single-storey extension to rear to provide four self-contained flats within the building. **Applicant: Mr M Epps** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01879/FUL: 2 Sturry Hill, Sturry, CT2 0NQ Redevelopment to provide 12 flats. **Applicant: Highland Property Group** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01880/CAC: 2 Sturry Hill, Sturry, CT2 0NQ Demolition of building in connection with redevelopment of site. **Applicant: Highland Property Group** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA//11/01915/FUL: Land adjoining 17 Hollow Street, Chislet, CT3 4DS Erection of two-bedroom detached house. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mrs McCleave** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//11/01949/CAC: 96 Station Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QA Part-demolition of an existing building. **Applicant: Mr M Epps** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 19 December 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 25 November 2011

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 1 December 2011.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1383/N - BEARSTED AND THURNHAM STATION, WARE STREET, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4PH - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations including the introduction of a partition wall to provide additional W.C. facilities. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1625/S - TWISDEN BARN, GREAT PAGEHURST, PAGEHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0JD - Listed building consent for the replacement of doors and windows to property. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1770/ - EWELL MANOR, EWELL LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NG - An application for replacement listed building consent in order to extend the time limit for implementation re listed building consent MA/08/2020 (An application for listed building consent for the conversion of barn, cart lodge and bothy into a single dwelling and annexe and stock shed into a single holiday let unit as shown on drawing numbers 1574/P/08, 02, 06A, 03A, 10A, 01, 04A, 07, 11A, 09 and 05A, a Design & Access Statement, and a Bat Report and Tree Survey and Report received on 06/10/08.). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1872/S - RHENCULLEN, BRIDGE STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BY - Retrospective application for hard-landscaping works to rear garden. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1885/S - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Application for listed building consent for single storey extension to south west elevation, alterations to fenestration, installation of flues and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1886/S - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Erection of a single storey extension to the south west elevation, alterations to fenestration and installation of flues, plus extension to bund. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1891/S - CHIEFGLEN K9 TRAINING SCHOOL LTD, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Erection of a polytunnel for a dog training school. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1906/S - THE OAST HOUSE, ELY COURT, GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0HB - Application for new listed building consent to replace extant listed building consent MA/08/2009 for conversion of redundant oast house to a three bedroom dwelling. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1914/S - SEAL HOLLOW, HIGH BANKS, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EG - Enclosure of front porch and re-surfacing of drive-way. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **11th December 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 27th November, 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03518/LBC **Beacon Mill House Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Additional sliding sash window to west elevation of existing windmill at ground floor level (pursuant to granted Listed Building Consent TW/09/03461) (LB)

11/03455/LBC **Town Farm Oast High Street, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of all windows for double-glazed units. Replacement of all external doors (LB)

11/03500/HOUSE **The Coach House 13 Langton Road, Broadwater**
- First floor side extension (CA)

11/03424/HOUSE **16A Stone Street Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Construction of an outbuilding on site of old generator house in rear garden (CA)

11/03082/HOUSE **Oak House Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst**
- Two garden sheds and one greenhouse (LB)

11/03217/HOUSE **1 Hunts Lane Goudhurst, Goudhurst**
- Variation of permission TW/11/00841 to include additional first floor window in side elevation (east) and additional rooflight in rear slope (north). Altered interal layout (CA) (LB)

11/03218/LBC **1 Hunts Lane Goudhurst, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Refurbishment and two storey side extension to include the insertion of rooflights in existing dwelling (Amendment to 11/00845/LBC - addition of first floor window in side elevation, additional rooflight in rear roof slope and alterations to internal layout), works already commenced (LB)

11/03456/LBC **Bricklayers West Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: New door to existing cupboard from bedroom 2 on first floor. Relining the walls and ceiling in the study on the second floor (LB)

11/03513/HOUSE **Curtisden Green Farmhouse Curtisden Green Lane, Goudhurst**
- Extension and enclosure of existing open porch (LB)

11/03517/LBC **Curtisden Green Farmhouse Curtisden Green Lane, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Extension and enclosure of existing open porch (LB)

11/03429/HOUSE **Forge House Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Replacement of part single storey extension with a two storey extension (LB)

11/03507/LBC **School House Farm School House Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Design and layout alterations to previously approved 2 bed annexe (TW/11/01094/LBC) (LB)

11/03423/LBC **23 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Fascia and projecting sign (LB)

11/03466/FUL **Stephen Gardiner Architects 23 Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use of ground floor premises from office to residential including alterations to ground floor level to repair and improve the appearance of the premises (CA) (LB)

11/03469/LBC **Stephen Gardiner Architects 23 Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of ground floor premises from office to residential including alterations to ground floor level to repair and improve the appearance of the premises (CA) (LB)

11/03481/LBC **23A Berkeley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Dormer window on rear elevation (LB)

11/03149/FUL **Cowbeech Farm Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Replacement dwelling together with detached garage with small increase to residential curtilage (involving change of use of agricultural land to residential) (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 26 November 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

KCC/TM/0476/2011 - Proposed development at Slade Primary School, The Slade, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1HR

Slade Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission to replace old iron railings on The Slade with new finial top fencing on to the original wall. Same specification fencing from same company as installed in 2008 in Stafford Road - under TM/08/3482. Also to fit a pedestrian gate into the car park to enable safe visitor access during the day. The proposed development is within the Tonbridge Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at Tonbridge Office, The Castle, Tonbridge, Kent, TN19 1BG.

KCC/TW/0479/2011 - Proposed development at Tunbridge Wells Library, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1NS

Kent County Council is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for a proposed extension to house new lift at the rear of the library and museum. The proposed development is within the Town Centre Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 27 November 2011

Kent County Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL IS ASKING FOR VIEWS ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

In line with the School Admissions Code, Kent County Council is formally consulting admissions authorities, diocesan boards, parent groups and parent/guardians of children aged between two and 16 who live in Kent.

They are being asked about the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Kent for the 2013/14 school year.

The Local Authority consultation runs from **15 November 2011** and the closing date will be **13 January 2012**.

The above groups are invited to view the admissions arrangements at:

www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions

A link to an online response form is also available on the KCC website.

If you do not have access to the internet you may request a printed copy of the proposed arrangements and a response form from:

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Admissions & Transport
Rm 2.24 Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Every academy, foundation and voluntary aided school is also required to consult the above groups on their proposed admission arrangements if they are making amendments. Where provided, the admissions policies for these schools will also be posted on the KCC website at the above link. They will also be available from the school. Any responses to the consultation on admission arrangements for academy, foundation or voluntary aided schools should be sent to the Chair of Governors for the relevant school, by their closing date, which must be no later than 1 March 2012.

If you require any further information on the consultation process please telephone Craig Chapman - Scheme Coordination Manager - on 01622 696789

Kent County Council

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canterbury City Council proposes to make the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

PART A

(i) The Order relates to the following car parks: Albin's, Beach Street, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Castle Row, Castle Street, Chapel Street, Council Offices (Staff and Visitors), Cow Lane, Essex Street, Faversham Road Seasalter, Fountain Street, Franklyn House, Sturry, Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Hampton Pier, Hawks Lane, Holman's Meadow, Keam's Yard, Kingsmead, Kingsmead Leisure Centre, King's Road, Longport, Market Street, Marlowe Theatre, Maynard Road, Memorial Park Herne Bay, Middle Wall, Millers Field, Neptune, New Dover Road Park and Ride, New Street, Northgate, North Lane, Notley Street, Orange Street, Oyster, Pound Lane, Queningate, Reculver Drive, Reculver Towers, Regent Street, Riverside Children's Centre, Rosemary Lane, Rye's, Salt Marsh Lane, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, St Radigund's, School Lane, Shaftesbury Road (North and South), Southern Way, Station Road West, Sturry Road Park and Ride, Swalecliffe Avenue, Sydenham Street, Tankerton Road, Tower Way, Toddlers Cove, Victoria Recreation Ground, Victoria Street, Watling Street, Whitefriars, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable Swimming Pool, William Street, Wincheap Park and Ride, Windsor House and Canterbury Coach Park.

(ii) Unless otherwise stated the above car parks are only available for use by:

(a) Motor Cars and Solo Motor Cycles

(b) Private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and

(c) Minibuses and Motor Caravans if they fit within a marked bay

and the maximum period of waiting is 24 hours; except that where specifically delineated bays are available in car parks they are to be used only by a disabled person's vehicle displaying a disabled person's badge for a maximum of three hours in Pay and Display car parks on a free of charge basis after which payment must be made. In exceptional circumstances a permit may be available for those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component at the Higher Rate) who live and/or work in the City subject to an administration charge of £12.50 (inclusive of VAT). The applicant for these permits will have to attend in person and show a current Blue Badge.

(iii) St Radigund's car park, Canterbury is available for public service vehicles displaying a permit issued by the Council and by motor cars and by private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and by minibuses and motor caravans not exceeding 5.5m in length.

(iv) The maximum period of waiting in the Kingsmead Leisure Centre car park, Canterbury, is three hours in any 12 hour period and it is available for minibuses, motor cars, motorcycles, private light goods vehicles and public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(v) Canterbury Coach Park, Canterbury, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, minibuses and motor caravans. The Kingsmead car park will be used as an overflow coach park when necessary.

(vi) Gorrell Tank car park, Whitstable, is available for motor cars and private light goods vehicles and market traders' vehicles not exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight, except for maintenance vehicles used in connection with the Pumping Station.

(vii) Orange Street car park, Canterbury, will only be available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge.

(viii) Chapel Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge during the day on Mondays to Saturdays and for vehicles displaying a residents' permit overnight and on Sundays.

(ix) William Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, motor cars, private light goods vehicles and commercial vehicles.

(x) Neptune car park, Herne Bay, is available for motor cars, private light goods vehicles, public service vehicles and vehicles with trailers and trailers in the bays provided.

(xi) Albin's, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Essex Street, Fountain Street, Hawk's Lane, New Street, Notley Street, Regent Street, Rye's, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, Salt Marsh Lane, Southern Way, Sydenham Street and Tower Way car parks are available for any period for vehicles displaying a residents' parking permit purchased from the Council. The permits are purchased annually and last for one year. They may no longer be available for those who hold an on-street parking permit. The cost of the residents' parking permits in respect of the car parks within Canterbury is £307 per annum and £77 per annum for those in Whitstable except for the Sydenham Street which is £18 per annum (all inclusive of VAT). A card for sites with barrier controlled access is available at a fee of £30. Franklyn House, Sturry and Windsor House, Whitstable car parks will be available for permit holders only.

(xii) The Council Offices staff car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for employment purposes in the spaces indicated who are displaying a valid staff parking permit, and on Saturdays and Sundays only, for the public. Solo motorcycles or motorcycles with side cars may also be parked in the spaces indicated. The Council Offices visitor car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for business purposes for a maximum of four hours unless a special permit is displayed.

(xiii) Tankerton Road car park is also available for public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(xiv) Whitstable Leisure Centre car park will be renamed Whitstable Swimming Pool car park and is available for motor cars, minibuses and private light goods vehicles. The parking fee will no longer be refunded to users of the adjacent ten pin bowling facility.

(xv) Holders of a business users reserved space permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Hawks Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St John's Lane and St Radigund's car parks. The holders of business users permits are able to park in any Canterbury pay and display car park except for North Lane, Pound Lane, Queningate and Watling Street car parks. The holders of a Castle Street business user permit may park in that car park between 7am and 11pm on any day.

(xvi) The holders of a Herne Bay Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Beach Street, King's Road, Market Street, Neptune and William Street car parks.

(xvii) Holders of a Whitstable Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road, Tankerton Road and Victoria Street car parks.

(xviii) Canterbury market trader permits are available for use in the Longport car park on Wednesdays or Fridays only at a cost of £175 per annum and on Wednesdays and Fridays at a cost of £350 per annum. A Herne Bay Market Trader Permit is also available for use in the William Street Car Park on Saturdays at a cost of £32 per annum and a Whitstable Market Trader permit is also available for use in Gorrell Tank car park on Thursdays at a cost of £32 per annum (all prices inclusive of VAT).

(xix) Franklyn House, Sturry, the Marlowe Theatre and Victoria Recreation Ground car parks will be included in the order.

(xx) Dover Street and Holmans Meadow car parks will be merged and called Holmans Meadow.

(xxi) An additional area to the west of William Street will be included in the description of the Market Street car park, Herne Bay.

(xxii) Any person who has an outstanding penalty charge notice against them will not be granted any permit for use in the Council's car parks.

PART B

The Order provides the following scale of charges with effect from 1 April 2011:

Car Park	Charge
(i) **Whitefriars** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 6pm:	
Sunday to Friday:	
Minimum fee	£1.60
Per hour	£1.60
Saturdays:	
Minimum fee	£3.20
Per hour thereafter	£1.60
Over 5 hours	£20
Between 6pm and 11pm:	
Any period	£1.60
(No entry after 11pm)	

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge £20

NOTE 2: Shop mobility users may park for up to three hours free of charge

(ii) **Central Premium, Canterbury – Queningate, Watling Street** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 9pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Sunday to Friday:	
Per hour	£1.30
Saturday	
Per hour	£1.50

NOTE 1: Watling Street car park will be free after 6pm on Thursday.

(iii) **Central, Canterbury – Castle Row, Holmans Meadow, Millers Field, North Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane and St Radigund's** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 9pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.10
Castle Street	
Between 7am and 11pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.10

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge for Castle Street £20

NOTE 2: Release fee for Castle Street is £50

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2012

(iv) **Outer, Canterbury –**
Longport, Northgate and Station Road West
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1

(v) **Recreation Ground Car Parks, Canterbury –**
Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Up to 2 hours	10p
Over 2 hours an hourly rate of	£1

(vi) **Other Canterbury car parks –**
Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Up to 5 hours	80p**
5 to 24 hours	£2.20
Kingsmead Leisure Centre	
Up to 3 hours	£1**

**This fee for the Kingsmead and Kingsmead Leisure Centre car parks will be refunded on admission to users of the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. Motorcycles will be free of charge.

(vii) **Long Stay, Herne Bay –**
Beach Street, King's Road* and Market Street
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 6pm:

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	50p
Maximum charge	£2.50

*Not available on Saturday, some Sundays and Bank Holidays as a car park.

School Lane, Herne and Reculver Towers, Reculver (Motor cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 6pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	20p
30 minutes to 2 hours	40p
2 to 24 hours	£1

(viii) **Short Stay, Herne Bay –**
William Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	70p

A maximum fee of £2.10 to be refunded upon admission to those persons using Herons Leisure Centre.

(ix) **Neptune** (Motor Cars only)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	70p

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
Good Friday to 30 September

Any period	£10

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
1 October to Good Friday

Any period	£1.60

(x) **Whitstable Short Stay –**
Gladstone Road, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road and Victoria Street
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	70p

(xi) **Whitstable Harbour –**
Harbour (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	50p
30 minutes to 1 hour	80p
1 to 2 hours	£2.50
Over 2 hours	Penalty Charge incurred

Oyster (Motor Cars etc)

Up to 30 minutes	50p
30 minutes to 1 hour	80p
1 to 3 hours	£2.50
3 to 5 hours	£3
5 to 24 hours	£4

NOTE: The Harbour car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xii) **Whitstable Long Stay –**
Gorrell Tank and Tankerton Road
(Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	50p
Maximum charge	£2.50

(xiii) **Other Whitstable –**
Whitstable Swimming Pool
Between 7am and 10pm daily:

Any period	£1**

**NOTE 1: This fee will be refunded on admission to users of the Swimming Pool.

NOTE 2: The Swimming Pool car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xiv) Park and Ride Service
New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap, Canterbury

per day or part thereof	£2.50

(xv) Charges for Public Service Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight (as permitted):
Canterbury Coach Park and Kingsmead car park (coaches, minibuses, motor caravans)

Per 12 hours	£10

William Street and Neptune, Herne Bay and Tankerton Road, Whitstable

per day or part thereof	£3

(xvi) All other car parks — Free
(Except those referred to in Part A (xi))

(xvii) **Permits – all prices are per annum and inclusive of VAT.**
Business User

Canterbury reserved space	£766
Canterbury	£605
Castle Street	£715
Herne Bay and Whitstable	£102
Whitstable Harbour	£80

Accommodation permits – available at £1.50 each and a Canterbury 24 hour permit available at £5 each with minimum purchases of 10 and 10% discount if 50 or more are purchased.

Worshippers Permit (available to park a motor car in named car parks for residents of the district, to Quakers resident in Swale district and to Anglican Catholic Church members resident in the Ashford district attending a service of worship on a regular basis)
Free but an administrative charge of £30 per new permit

Residents' off peak permit (limited) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle between 5pm on one day and 9am on the following day and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £143

Residents' off-street permit (full) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle at any time in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £511

Castle Street Residents' permit £526

Station Road West car park rail user permit available for rail season ticket holders to park on Mondays to Fridays £80 per month

Residents' permit for residents of Herne Bay and Whitstable for the parking of motor cars in all car parks in Herne Bay and Whitstable respectively other than Whitstable Harbour and the Swimming Pool car parks. £102

School Lane Residents Permit for the parking of a motor car in School Lane car park, Herne £102

(xvii) Pay and Display payment card
Discount of 10% for all pay and display car parks

(xviii) Park and Ride payment card
Discount of 20% for all Park and Ride car parks

(xix) Neptune car park parking card, Herne Bay (for commercial fishermen and regular users to park at any time in that car park).
50% discount rate of normal fee

(xx) Administration Fee
£10 per amendment

(xxi) Penalty charge – payable in the event of non or insufficient payment of above fees or any breach of the Order.
£70 or £50 PROVIDED that the penalty charge shall be reduced to £35 or £25 if payment is received by the Director of Resources within 14 days of the date on which the penalty charge was issued (or any other amount recommended by the Secretary of State for the time being and approved by Members of the Council.)

(NOTE: The above charges apply **every** day of the week including Bank Holidays unless stated).

Any of the car parks listed above, or parts thereof, may be closed by the Council when required for a purpose of the Council or authorised by them.

A copy of the draft Order, the Order amended by the proposals and the Statement of Reasons, may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay	Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to object to the proposed order, you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to the undersigned so as to arrive by 9am on 19 December 2011.

Dated this 27th day of November 2011.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

AUNT BETSY'S HILL, BRIDGE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerb improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Aunt Betsy's Hill, Bridge, Canterbury, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with High Street.

The alternative route is via Dering Road, Union Road and High Street.

FAVERSHAM ROAD, SEASALTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic safety measures and a footway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faversham Road, Seasalter, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with St Mary's Grove and Lucerne Drive.

There will be no access for through traffic between Whitstable and Graveney using Faversham Road.

The alternative routes are

WESTBOUND via Seasalter Lane, A299 Thanet Way, Staple Street, Staple Street Road, Head Hill, Head Hill Road and Seasalter Road

EASTBOUND via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road, A299 Thanet Way, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Borstal Hill, Joy Lane and Faversham Road.

It is planned the works will be carried out between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these times.

KING'S ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting eastbound through traffic on King's Road, Herne Bay, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed eastbound only, between the junctions with Beach Street and William Street.

The alternative route is via Beach Street, Queen Street and William Street.

Westbound traffic is unaffected.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

MIDDLE STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Street, Deal, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between properties 138 to 148.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Griffin Street and Exchange Street.

The alternative route is via Griffin Street, A258 Beach Street and Exchange Street.

OAKSIDE ROAD, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oakside Road, Aylesham, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

There will be no access for through traffic between Hill Crescent and Vale View Road.

The alternative route is via Hill Crescent, Boulevard Courrieres and Vale View Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (YELSTED ROAD, STOCKBURY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Yelsted Road outside of Poppy View on or after Saturday 3rd December 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Yelsted Road, Yaugher Lane, Magpie Lane, Lower Hartlip Road, Cowstead Road, Bull Lane, Hill Green Road, South Street Road, Yelsted Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to lay high voltage cables. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Scott Davis of Amber Langis Limited on 01732 783986.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

POUND LANE, KNOCKHOLT - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Pound Lane, Knockholt outside Roxburgh.

The Order will become effective on 11th December 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th December 2011 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: May Road, Blueberry Lane, Pound Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road crossing.

RIDLEY HILL, ASH CUM RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on (Redhill Road), Ash Cum Ridley.

The Order will become effective on 28th November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day and are due to commence on 29th November 2011. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Rectory Road, New Street Road, Hartley Bottom Road and Bunkers Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate tree felling.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

DOWNS ROAD PASSAGE, FOLKESTONE (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting pedestrians and cyclists on Downs Road Passage, Folkestone, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The closure is for its entire length, from between house numbers 153 and 153A Downs Road to the junction with Park Farm Road.

The alternative route is via the walkway between house numbers 83 and 85 Downs Road, Moat Farm Road, Downside and Park Farm Road.

MANOR ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manor Road, Folkestone, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Cheriton Gardens / Shorncliffe Road.

The alternative route is via Ingles Road and A2034 Cheriton Gardens.

VICARAGE LANE (LICKPOT HILL), ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable safe access for telephone pole replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vicarage Lane (Lickpot Hill), Elham, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 1 day, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of The Laynes.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Hog Green and Standard Hill Top.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, New Road, Canterbury Road, Bereforestall Hill, Oak Hill and Lickpot Hill.

WEST PARADE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the use of a mobile crane to lift materials onto a property development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Parade, Hythe, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Stade Street and Victoria Road.

The alternative route is via Stade Street, Arthur Road and Victoria Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2007 THOMSETT WAY), QUEENBOROUGH) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

(CULLET DRIVE & RUSHENDEN ROAD, QUEENBOROUGH) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers has made an Order under Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which has introduced a 40mph speed limit on a section of the Rushenden Relief Road called Thomsett Way (B2007) and;

Under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Schedule 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the effect of which has amended the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions in Cullet Drive and Rushenden Road at the locations where they meet Thomsett Way (B2007).

The Kent County Council is working in partnership with the South East England Development Agency, known as SEEDA to promote further development and regeneration at Rushenden and Queenborough on the Isle of Sheppey.

Thomsett Way is currently known as the Rushenden Relief Road and will become the B2007 part of which has become subject to a 40mph speed limit from its north eastern roundabout junction with the A249 Breille Way south westwards, to a point 40 metres east of the mid point of its roundabout junction with Cullet Drive. The remaining length will automatically be a 30 mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting. The current B2007, which is called Main Road, will be de-classified.

There has also been a need to alter small lengths of the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions in Cullet Drive and Rushenden Road at the locations where they meet Thomsett Way.

The proposals involve substantial mixed commercial and housing development, to provide new employment and homes as well as complement the existing development.

Access to the existing development through Queenborough is poor and a new link road called Thomsett Way, Queenborough, between the A249 and the existing and new development areas is proposed. SEEDA has secured Homes and Community Agency and other government and private sector funding.

The link road will be a new carriageway, part dual carriageway and part single carriageway. It will run between the new roundabout at Neats Court, constructed as part of the A249 Swale Crossing scheme, and pass over the railway connecting to a new junction on Rushenden Road. An intermediate roundabout will serve Cullet Drive.

A copy of the scheme which will come into operation on Monday 28th November 2011, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the proposals can be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ, Swale Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT and at Queenborough Town Council Offices, 44 High Street, Isle of Sheppey, Queenborough, Kent, ME11 5AA.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2005 SITTINGBOURNE RELIEF ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE) (40 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers has made an Order under Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which has introduced a 40mph speed limit on the un-named road, which is the new section of the B2005 Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road (herein after referred to as SNRR).

As part of Kent County Council's regeneration programme, Phase 3 of the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road (SNRR) is due to be open by the end of November 2011.

The SNRR is 1.4 km length of single carriageway road in the north east of Sittingbourne, with bridges over Milton Creek and the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway. The new length will form a link between the two existing sections of the relief road which are between Grovehurst interchange on the A249 and Ridham Avenue, and between Castle Road and the East Hall Farm residential development.

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the scheme which will come into operation on Monday 28 November 2011, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the proposals can be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Swale Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

NORTON ROAD, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of telephone pole and cable works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton & Buckland, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction Homestall Road and the property shown as Green Acres.

The alternative route is via Tickham Lane, Homestall Road and Norton Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The planned work times are between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

THREAD LANE, HERNHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable safe access for telephone pole replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thread Lane, Hernhill, on or after 30 November 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the south of Crockham Lane for a distance of approximately 200 metres southwards.

The alternative route is via Crockham Lane, Church Hill, Staplestreet Road, Dawes Road and Thread Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ALBION STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs to prevent flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albion Street, Broadstairs, on or after 28 November 2011 for up to 1 day between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the vicinity of number 15 to the vicinity of number 51.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Thanet Road and Alexandra Road.

The alternative route is via Nelson Place, Crow Hill, Lindenthorpe Road, Carlton Avenue and High Street.

A299 CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to tie the existing road into the new carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A299 Canterbury Road West, Minster, on or after 12 December 2011 for up to 5 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am each night.

If the works have not been completed by then, further closures may be necessary on 17 and 18 December 2011 between 6.00 am and 1.00 pm.

The closure is in the vicinity of the east side of the junction with Cliffsend Roundabout.

There will be no access for through traffic between Cliffsend Roundabout and the Lord of the Manor Roundabout.

The alternative route is via the new A299 'Hengist Way' from Cliffsend Roundabout, the New A256 'Richborough Way' from Sevenscore Roundabout and A256 Sandwich Road from Ebbsfleet Roundabout.

HERTFORD STREET & WATERLOO PLACE, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hertford Street & Waterloo Place, Ramsgate as shown below.

WATERLOO PLACE, RAMSGATE will be closed on or after 1 December 2011 for up to 1 day.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Bellevue Road and Shaftsbury Street.

HERTFORD STREET, RAMSGATE will be closed on or after 2 December 2011 for up to 1 day.

The closure is between the junction with Albert Street and the vicinity of number 21.

The alternative route is via West Cliff Road, Royal Road, St Augustine's Road, Paragon, Addington Street and Hertford Place.

The planned closure times are between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm each day.

KING'S AVENUE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on King's Avenue, Broadstairs, on or after 29 November 2011 for up to 1 day between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the rear of North Foreland School.

The alternative route is via Lindenthorpe Road, Crow Hill, Stone Road and Lanthorne Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bradbourne Lane from A20 London Road to a point 15m south on or after Monday 28th November 2011 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via St Peters Road, New Road, A20 London Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CROUCH LANE, BOROUGH GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Crouch Lane from Long Mill Lane to Maidstone Road on or after Thursday 1st December 2011 for a period of up to 9 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Maidstone Road, Long Mill Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Nicola Webb on 0370 0500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FAIRSEAT LANE, WROTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Fairseat Lane outside Platt Hill Wood on or after Tuesday 13th December 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A227 Gravesend Road to the roundabout, back up A227 Gravesend Road, Vigo Hill, Platt House Lane.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to repair a stopcock. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Lyndsay Ford on 01634 877413.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LONDON ROAD, RYARSH) (SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on London Road from 25m east of entrance to Dovercourt Farm to 20m west of junction of London Road and Roughetts Road on or after Monday 12th December 2011 for a period of up to 5 months or until such works are completed.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CLEVELAND, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called the Act), and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and Commencement and Revocation

1. This Order may be cited as "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Cleveland, Royal Tunbridge Wells) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011" and shall come into operation on the 28Th day of November 2011 and will revoke the existing restriction in Schedule 1 to this Order.
2. Exemptions would be provided in Schedule 2 to the Order to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for disabled badge holders, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent the road and for emergency service vehicles.

SCHEDULE 1

Name of road	Length of road effected
CLEVELAND	On both sides - from the junction with Sandrock Road to a point 15 metres north of the junction.

SCHEDULE 2
(No waiting at any time)

Name of road	Length of road effected
CLEVELAND	On the western side from the junction with Sandrock Road for a distance of 27 metres in a northerly direction.
CLEVELAND	On the eastern side from the junction with Sandrock Road for a distance of 34 metres in a northerly direction.
CLEVELAND	On the eastern side from a point 85 metres north and northwest of the junction with Sandrock Road for a distance of 52 metres generally in a northerly direction.
CLEVELAND	On the eastern side between points 15 metres south west of the access road between Nos. 24 and 26 to a point 15 metres north east of that junction.
CLEVELAND (Access road between Nos. 24 and 26)	On the north eastern side from the junction with Cleveland for a distance of 15 metres in a south easterly direction. On the south western side from the junction with Cleveland for a distance of 10 metres in a south easterly direction.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SANDROCK ROAD, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of the Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called the "Act") and as amended by the Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and Commencement

1. Exemptions provided in the Order to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for disabled badge holders, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road and for emergency service vehicles.
2. This Order may be cited as "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Sandrock Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells) (Prohibition of Waiting) (Amendment No 3) Order 2011" and shall come into operation on the 28th November 2011.

SCHEDULE
(No waiting at any time)

Name of road		Length of road affected
Sandrock Road	South side	From a point 10 metres east of its junction with College Drive to a point 15metres west of its junction with Cleveland.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TEA GARDEN LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tea Garden Lane, outside The Beacon Hotel on or after Monday 28th November 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A264 Langton Road, Major Yorks Road, Hungershall Park, High Rocks Lane, Tea Garden Lane.

Connick Tree Care apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for tree felling. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Julie Wall on 01737 779191.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 27th November 2011

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice, southern France (Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request)
- 3 nights, 3 star hotel B&B in Nice
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco

New Year at the Grand Burstin Hotel Folkestone

Self drive, 3 nights half board

Quote HB-KOS

£169pp

30 Dec, 2011 to 2 Jan, 2012

The Grand Burstin Hotel is located by the seaside overlooking Folkestone Harbour. This superb hotel is one of the UK's top entertainment hotels where you can relax in the leisure club or have a special dinner at the Premier Restaurant. There are Cabaret shows each evening providing top notch entertainment, fantastic for all ages. The health club has a 12 metre indoor heated pool, sauna, solarium and fully equipped gym (£4 per day payable locally).

INCLUDED:

- Welcome drink on arrival
- 3-course dinner on 30 Dec
- Breakfast, lunch & Gala Hogmonay dinner on New Year's Eve
- Brunch and dinner on New Year's Day
- Breakfast on 2 January
- En-suite bedroom
- Entertainment every evening

Picturesque Marlow

The lakeside location

Thames Valley & Marlow Christmas

4-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Self drive, 4 nights half board-plus

Quote XP12-KOS

£319pp

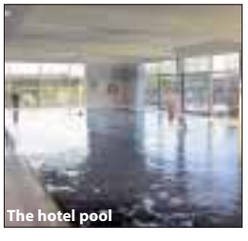
Friday, 23 to 27 Dec, 2011

The Crowne Plaza Marlow is a contemporary and luxurious 4 star hotel on the outskirts of the beautiful Buckinghamshire country town of Marlow.

This hotel is a low-rise contemporary building in a stunning lakeside location near the River Thames. The hotel has a fully-equipped health club with indoor pool which is free to residents. The spacious bedrooms all have Satellite TV, tea/coffee-making and en-suite bathroom with bath & separate shower.

INCLUDED:

- Welcome mince pies and tea/coffee or mulled wine on arrival
- 4 nights accommodation sharing a twin or double room
- Four 3-course dinners
- 4 full-English breakfasts
- One 3-course festive Christmas lunch
- Nightly entertainment including a disco one night


The hotel pool

Carry on New Year at the 4-star London International Hotel

Self drive, 2 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote LC1-KOS

WAS £119pp
SALE PRICE £109pp

January 2 to 4, 2012

Extend the New Year celebration at the 4-star Britannia London International Hotel, situated on the water's edge in London Docklands with superb views of the London skyline.

You will enjoy dinner and breakfast each day, a 99p bar and entertainment both evenings.

The Canary Wharf Health Club & Gym is a great way to keep in shape or relax. This fully equipped Leisure Club features a swimming pool, sauna and state of the art gym (£2.50 per day payable at the hotel).

All bedrooms have an en suite bathroom with bath and shower, TV, hairdryer, internet access and direct-dial phone.

The hotel is located outside the congestion charge zone.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- 99p bar from 7pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment

Mamma Mia! ABBA tribute loved even by Swedes

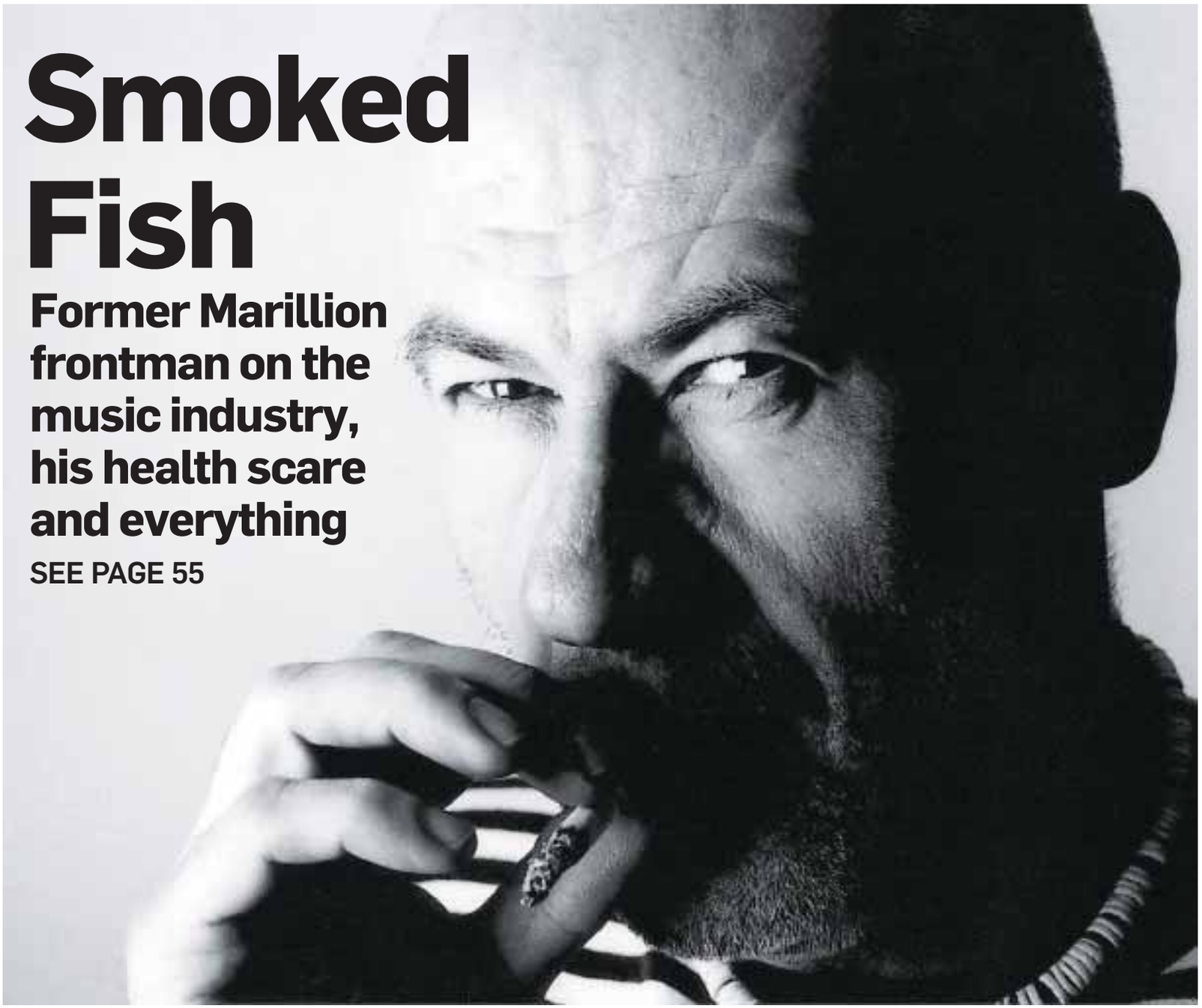
SEE PAGE 62

MEETING THE STIG

Perry McCarthy, the original man behind the mask, tells tales

SEE PAGE 66

Kent Weekend



Smoked Fish

Former Marillion frontman on the music industry, his health scare and everything

SEE PAGE 55

PLUS: Enjoy traditional British dining - **food and drink p57** Escape to the country while enjoying the benefits of urban life as well - **property p74** Honda's latest Civic has decided to grow up and stay cool - **driving p77**

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THE INTERVIEW

Fish

Fish goes back through the scales

Ed Hill meets the former Marillion frontman heading our way

WHEN Fish hit the big time with the band Marillion back in the early 80s, the group seemed a throwback to an earlier age.

Their progressive-rock style seemed at odds with the wave of ska and new-romantic sounds filling the charts. Despite this, the group had big hits with numbers like Kayleigh and Lavender.

By 1988 the big Scot had fallen out of love with touring in a band and decided a solo career might be better for both his health and sanity.

He said: "It was a big change going from being in a band to being on my own, but I have no regrets. I have been solo for longer than I have been in a band and I have seen a lot more things than I would have done if I had stayed in Marillion."

As a solo artist, the singer, whose real name is Derek W Dick, built up a loyal fan base, but in recent years he has gone through ups and downs that almost ended his career.

In 2009 he had to have an operation on his vocal chords to save his voice.

He said: "I knew in 2008 I had something that was a bit more serious than a sore throat, so I went to an ENT unit to see what was wrong. It was a very dark time. I was dealing with the whole shadow that it might be cancer as well."

After several operations and a lot of rest, the singer slowly returned to performing last year.

He said: "I was trying to get back into it again and build my confidence."

The singer started performing with his friends Frank Usher (guitar) and Foss Paterson (keyboards). The stripped-down three-piece gave his back catalogue a new acoustic sound that has proved hugely popular.

"It is extraordinary how it has grown. It started off as a small thing just to do a few gigs, but then it seems to have gripped people's imagination. I didn't expect the audience to react in the way they have done. We have recorded more than three hours of material."

The band have now toured Europe and played more than 200 gigs, and Fish will be bringing his new sound to Whitstable next month.

He said: "We never do the same set two nights in a row because the audience get to choose what we play. It allows me to be a bit more intimate with the crowd. As a three-piece we have been able to play places we never could have before.

"In Germany we did more than 60 shows – it has been phenomenal. I find if you get more than 600 people you start to lose that intimacy unless the venue is just right.

"We have played coal mines, churches, Art-Deco cinemas. I do enjoy that banter with the audience. If I go and see an artist do a show, I like to see them dealing with the people there on the night, not just coming out with the same old banal rock'n'roll rubbish."

A FEAST OF CONSEQUENCES: Fish is back on tour and ready to entertain us intimately next month

Aside from the tour, Fish is working on a documentary film and preparing to record his next album, A Feast Of Consequences.

"People say to me 'When is your next album coming – you haven't done one since 2007'. Well, I had the voice problems and then I got married for six months in a relationship that crashed.

"It might have been easy to go out and write another album, but it would have been rubbish because my head would not have been in the right place. I don't like to write when I'm on the road because all my energy is going into the performance on the night. You pay a price if you put a bad album out. My last one, 13th Star, was particularly good and that is the benchmark I want to maintain."

Fish says the uncertainty of the internet and music has created problems for artists and making money, but it has also had benefits.

"Young musicians ask me for advice and I have no idea what to say about the internet. It seems to have brought the live scene back into play and a lot of tribute bands are being shuffled out the door in favour of new, proper bands.

"But the downloading thing has crucified us because nobody knows where the money goes."

And the singer, who has had more than 30 years in the music business, condemns the rise of the X Factor phenomenon.

"I find that whole thing pretty repugnant. To me, it misses the whole point of what making music is about. Of course you can get someone to sing one song well if you constantly train them, but can they write a song and then go out and entertain people live without all the hype of being on a TV programme?"

Fish has acted in films over the years but says life on the road makes getting parts difficult. He says one benefit of the internet is it gives him a more immediate connection with his fans.

He said: "On the Fish Facebook page when we started on this tour we had about 3,000 followers – now we have 18,000. That comes through communicating with the fans. It's a kind of guerilla-warfare approach that will hopefully fund the next album."

After his health scare, the musician says he feels he is in a better place.

He said: "I am really enjoying my music at the moment. At the end of the day, the last thing I want to be is Robbie Williams. I am quite happy making enough money to pay the mortgage, paying my costs and touring around the world – and that's it."

■ **Fish will be playing the East Quay in Whitstable on Saturday, December 3. Visit http://whitlive.co.uk for tickets.**

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Pub pushes traditions from every direction at a time to eat merrily

RESTAURANT REVIEW

THERE is nothing more British than sitting in an old flagstone and beamed pub, drinking beer and eating food.

But in the height of winter it is even better as the open log-fire crackles and plates of steaming vegetables and meats are served up.

I have just described exactly my experience of the Red Lion in Hernhill.

The 14th-century inn sits on a classical village green sporting its white walls and dark wooden beams, and after hearing that the eatery was under new management, the true country Brit in me decided it would be a necessity to give it a try on a cold November evening.

My other half and I were sat at a table just across from the roaring fire and the classical winter meal began.

We were handed the menu, which featured many pub-grub classics like beer-battered cod or sausage and mash, but it was the weekly specials that really grabbed the attention.

My mouth watered at the description of the hunter's chicken and 13-ounce T-bone steak. But first things first, the starters.

I plumped for something light as I was guessing the main course could well be hefty. Opting for the prawn-and-smoked salmon salad (£5.25), I was pleasantly surprised by both presentation and taste of a dish that can often be knocked up

without too much care. The salmon was both fresh and delicate, while the mixed greenery and dressing complemented it well.

It was the right size and left me looking forward to my next course.

When a dish is described on the menu as a monster pork shank, you can imagine it will be on the large side.

I was not disappointed. The plate of food arrived with the steaming pork shank artistically placed upright, supported by a bed of mashed potato and covered in a rich red wine jus (£11.95). As I tucked in, I felt as if I had travelled back to Medieval times and should have a metal tankard in hand and be demanding another flagon of ale from the barkeep.

The tender pork fell from the bone and was cooked to perfection, with a side of seasonal vegetables – carrots and broccoli – accompanying the dish.

It really was a monster, and almost too much, but I still managed to put it away somewhere.

My guest had opted for the slow-roasted lamb shank with minted peas (£13.95).

The presentation of both dishes was superb and, but for a fur shawl and Viking helmet, this felt like a trip back in time to when simple British food was hot, sumptuous and ready to be devoured.

We probably didn't need a dessert, but the temptation of a classic cheeseboard (£4.50) to finish off the evening was too much to resist. A number of sweet and spicy cheeses was accompanied by biscuits, butter and a strong chop of mature cheddar.

All simple stuff, done very, very well, and for the very reasonable total bill of £50.

Joe Bill

■ **Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill**
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FARMERS' MARKETS

HEADCORN: Headcorn farmers' market has now entered its fourth year and opens every second Saturday from 9.30am-12.30pm in the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality, local produce and locally-made goods.

BRIDGE: The market held at The Red Lion on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy high-quality, nutritious, fresh local food and drink that contributes to their well-being, protects the environment and respects animal welfare.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: A farmers' market is set in Tunbridge Wells's historical centre of The Pantiles. It revives the tradition of an open-air market held here a few centuries ago; it runs on the first and third Saturdays between the hours of 9am-2pm.

GRAVESEND: The market in Gravesend high street is open between 10am and 2pm on the second Friday of each month. It started in October 2007 on a trial basis and is supported by Gravesham Borough Council.

ELHAM: Elham farmers' market is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the courtyard of the Rose & Crown pub from 10am to midday. It offers a selection of locally-produced fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, fresh meat, game, bread, cakes and pies, honey, jams and wine.

HYTHE: This market was established in March 2004 and is now located in the Methodist church hall between Chapel Street and Prospect Road, coming to the coastal town on the second and fourth Saturdays every month, from 10am to noon.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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Christmas in THANET

THIS year, why not really enter the Christmas spirit and support your local community by heading down to one of the many events being held across Thanet?

To start the festive season there will be a special exhibition at the Old Town's Margate Gallery. The Spirit Of Christmas will feature local and national artists such as Dawn Cole, Neal Morley and Mike Bell. A selection of original prints, paintings, jewellery, textiles and cards will be on show from Thursday, December 1, until Christmas Eve. Phone 01843 292779 for more information.

Margate's Christmas lights switch-on at Marine Terrace is on Thursday, December 1, between 5pm and 6pm. There will be carols led by The Salvation Army, with songs performed by the Theatre Royal Margate.

On Saturday, December 3, you can celebrate the brand-new Christmas lights in Ramsgate with a day of activities and a Christmas fair in Charlotte and Albert Courts, between Harbour Street and York Street.

Events include Victorian costume characters, the Academy FM Roadshow and Christmas petanque. Youngsters can visit Father Christmas in his grotto between 11am and 4pm.

The Christmas lights switch-on at Westgate falls on Sunday, December 4. There will be funfair rides and some 30 traditional stalls and refreshments including burgers, Italian coffee and Christmas gift ideas.

There is a lantern parade and Father Christmas will be at his grotto from 1pm, with the lights switched on at 4pm by Luke Lucas, who was on this year's The X Factor.

Escape into a winter wonderland at Tudor House in Margate this year on Sundays December 4, 11 and 18, from midday to 4pm.

The house will be decorated with seasonal evergreens, festive fruits and herbs and spices, while the parlour will be laid out with a Feast For A Farmer.

A crafting sheet will give you some ideas to create your own Tudor Christmas. Phone 01843 577577 for more information.

Hansel And Gretel will play at Theatre Royal Margate from Thursday, December 8, until Saturday, December 31. Ticket prices range from £10-£16; family tickets are available. Phone the box office on 0845 130 1786.

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Christmas in HERNE BAY

IN the bleak midwinter, head down to Herne Bay to enjoy some festive treats and plenty of yuletide fun.

But if you feel the fresh winds on the bay's glorious coastline will be too much for you to brave, or the traditional fish restaurants and warm local ales don't jingle your bells, there is a number of other events on offer this year.

The Kings Hall will be hosting a Christmas craft and gift fair for those last-minute party favours and decorations. There will be a selection of the finest handmade crafts the county has to offer as well as items that allow you to make your traditional festive gifts.

Take ideas and inspiration for your table centre-pieces and tree decorations from the fair, which will be open from 10am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, November 26-27.

If you are looking for a show to keep the children entertained, head to see the magical tale of Aladdin at the Herne Bay Little Theatre.

The show, written by David Manners, will run from Thursday, December 1, until Saturday, December 10, with shows starting at 7.30pm and matinees on Saturdays.

For tickets to see Aladdin, you can phone 01227 366004.

As we head closer to the big day, there will be a Christmas Winter Wonderland set up at Wimereux Gardens on Saturday, December 10.

Close to the town centre, youngsters and families can take in the magic of Christmas as well as enter the Paint A Christmas Decoration competition at The Activity Box shop in Mortimer Street. Children aged between four and 14 can book a place by phoning 01227 365240.

Also on the evening of December 10, and now in their 19th year of playing to packed venues at home and abroad, Rubber Biscuit return for their popular Christmas party.

Kent's biggest soul, rhythm and blues band will again entertain the masses with their classic festive set.

All tickets cost £10 and are available by phoning 01227 787787; doors open at 7pm.

On Saturday, December 17, bell-ringers will gather outside The Rose Inn, Mortimer Street, at 11am to perform some much-loved classic carols and a few modern tunes as well. Enjoy the festivities!

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Christmas in WHITSTABLE

IT IS that special time of year when everyone is rushing around buying gifts just in time for Christmas. Well, this year there is plenty going on in Whitstable to take your mind off of the shopping madness and get down to some traditional festive events.

First up is a show to warm your cockles with More Music, Murder And Mayhem at the Playhouse Theatre. From Thursday to Saturday, December 1-3, the Lindley Players offer a unique double bill. This pre-Christmas show offers both the traditionally popular Sing Out and the long-awaited Murder At The Argh.... by Glyn Maflin.

A variety of Christmas songs including carols, pop favourites and others will be performed before the local group gets down to the murderous, emotional roller-coaster featuring beautiful women and Johnny Depp look-alikes. Tickets start at £7.50 and are available from the box office on 01227 272042.

The Horsebridge Arts Centre Christmas Quiz is up on Saturday December 3. Put a team together from friends, family or work colleagues, think of a suitably witty name and get in the seasonal spirit with great prizes to win and a Christmas raffle. It costs £5 per person for teams of up to eight. This includes nibbles, but bring your own drinks.

This year's Tankerton Christmas Market will take place at Whitstable Castle and Gardens on Sunday, December 4, from 11am, officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Ian Thomas.

There will be craft, charity and trade stalls inside the castle, as well as a static display by Many Hoots Owl Rescue Centre, a number of children's fairground rides and face-painting by Funtastic Faces. There will also be plenty of good seasonal food and mulled wine available.

On Saturday, December 17, the Whitstable Choral Society Christmas Concert takes place at St Alphege Church.

Conductor David Flood will invite guests to sing carols with the choir. Children in the audience will be invited to perform Away In A Manger under David's direction. Afterwards, every child will receive a small reward for their contribution. Tickets are available from Gatefield Sounds in the high street, or by email at tickets@whitstablechoral.org.uk.

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Meet Santa in the forest

Grotto dates

Bedgebury Pinetum
December 3-23
01892 616647
www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk

WITH Christmas only weeks away, what better news is there than Father Christmas is coming to Bedgebury Pinetum, home to the largest collection of conifers in the world?

Father Christmas's home will be in the visitor centre overlooking its beautiful lakeside setting.
The big man will be available to see families from 12.30pm onwards; the date includes a gift for each child and a professional family photograph at a cost of just £7.50 per child.
After your visit, you can visit the new Festive Food Grotto for a selection of hot drinks, soup, mince pies and other seasonal fare.
For those wanting a full day out at Bedgebury, the cost is £8.50 per car.

Swingmeister heads to town

Here's Jimmy!

Britannia Theatre, Chatham Maritime
Saturday, December 3
01634 365 453

THE Britannia Theatre is playing host to the Swing-In Christmas, an evening of swing music and crooning with Frank Sinatra's and Humphrey Lyttleton's renowned saxophone-player Jimmy Hastings.
The set will also feature Kent's Michael Buble-style crooner Shane Hampsheir, Covent Garden vibes man Roan Kearsey-Lawson and London-based crooner Ryan Sanders.
Hastings accompanied Frank Sinatra a number of times during the 70s and has played in various West End Shows such as Cats, West Side Story and Starlight Express.
He was also in the band Caravan with his brother Pye Hastings.
See www.144club.co.uk.

Model railway exhibition

A 22nd year

St George's School, Broadstairs
Mon and Sat, November 26-27
07803 229235

ST GEORGE'S School is hosting the 22nd annual model railway exhibition on Saturday this weekend.
This year's exhibition will allow model-train fans to see the 18 working model layouts on show, including four that are making their debut in model railway exhibitions.
There are also two exhibits that showcase the products made by Triang, now Hornby, at the Margate factory during its height in the 1960s.
To support the show, there will be a range of traders selling a good variety of model-railway items.
The organisers, the North Kent Model Railway Group, will open the show at 10am on both days and close at 5pm on the Saturday and 4pm on the Sunday.
Admission is £4, seniors £2.50, children £2, family £10.

The best ABBA tribute

Even Swedes like 'em

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Saturday, December 10
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

ABBA FOREVER, the UK's leading tribute band to the Swedish wizards, are coming to Dartford.
With a six-piece band on stage, non-stop dancing and dazzling costumes, the group re-create the unique ABBA sound to electrifying effect.
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The band have even passed the toughest test there is for an ABBA tribute group... a Swedish audience. Founder Jane Ellis-Forshaw said: "We were nervous about how Swedish audiences would react to us performing as 'their' band."
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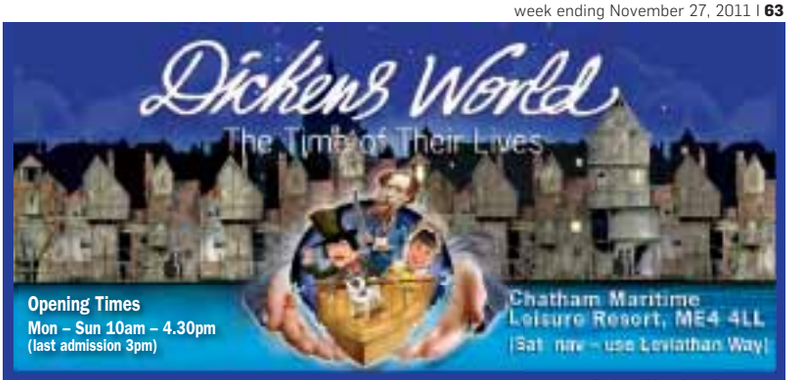

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Christmas Jongleurs Friday 2nd December – Sold Out
Porters NYE Party with Curry Buffet & Disco – £25.00
The Valentine Lovers Party Night with Hot Chocolate Performing Live – Fri 10th Feb – £25.00
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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

Advance planning can

EVERY year the range of Christmas presents that throng the shelves of stores gets larger and larger.

And even after so many years, people still find it difficult to find the perfect Christmas gifts for the special people in their lives.

After all, everyone wants to make sure their particular gift is appreciated and cherished long after the day itself.

But it doesn't have to be so hard. One just has to anticipate the coming of Christmas and write down good ideas as they occur.

For instance, if your dad is upset that his fishing rod broke during summer he might forget about it after a while, but why not write it down and remember to buy him a replacement when Christmas comes?

Likewise, Mum might have complained that her dresses were out of fashion and she had nothing to wear. So a little foresight and a glance at what's on offer every so often can mean the dress is already bought and wrapped ready to put under the tree.

A little forward planning like this also shows you truly care about what you are buying and know what your loved ones need and really want.

They may have forgotten their initial desire for something new, but they'll remember when they

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ease present dilemma

unwrap their gift and see what they've got.

Another good tip when looking for Christmas gifts is to think of alternatives to the more common presents.

Here are a few alternative gift ideas:

- When buying for children, make sure that if anything needs batteries they are part of the present. It can be frustrating for youngsters having a bright, shiny, new toy that they cannot do anything with as it won't work. No one wants to trek on Christmas morning looking for an open garage so they can buy some triple-As!
- For many children the thrill of unwrapping a present is as great as playing with what they've been given. So a number of smaller gifts is probably better than one large one – unless it is something the child has long cherished.
- Surprise is a major thing when it comes to successful gift-buying. If someone has started a new hobby or interest, any present that reflects that is sure to be appreciated.
- The ritual of opening presents together in a beautifully decorated room with the tree as the room's centrepiece is one that appeals to everyone. So make sure the gifts you buy make the occasion even more special.

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STAGE & ARTS

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Everywhere and nowhere

Punk party

The East Quay, Whitstable
December 2-3
www.wegottickets.com
Tickets priced from £15

THERE will be two classic punk bands on one bill as the Anti-Nowhere League, fresh back from their UK tour with Motörhead, and The Members head to Whitstable.
Lead singer Animal formed the Anti-Nowhere League, below, in 1980 and promptly got arrested at their very first gig. The history of the League is littered with brushes with the law, rock'n'roll misbehaviour and very loud music.
Their debut album We Are... The League saw all copies seized by the Obscene Publications Squad and they were banned from TV.

The Stig back in the Hatch

Speed date

Brands Hatch, Fawkham
Friday, December 23
01474 875224
www.brandshatch.co.uk

BRANDS Hatch has joined forces with original Stig Perry McCarthy for a one-off opportunity at its Christmas Grand Prix Ball on Friday, December 23.
The former F1 driver, who has experienced his fair share of highs and lows in motorsport, will welcome guests on arrival before sharing amusing anecdotes about his career after dinner.
McCarthy, who was the first man behind the mysterious character on BBC's Top Gear, is known not just for his speed on the track but for his sense of humour and wit off of it. And after an explosive reveal-all book, he has a few stories to tell. Places for the Christmas Grand Prix Ball are available for £55 plus VAT per head.

The scary lure of stardust

Comedy hit

The Playhouse, Erith
November 28-December 3
01322 350345
www.playhouse.org.uk

THE award-winning comedy Stones In His Pockets opens at Erith Playhouse for a week-long stint on Monday.
In the show, Hollywood invades a small Irish town and the uproar is seen through the eyes of two of the film's extras, Charlie and Jake.
The dream-factory bandwagon blazes a trail of disruption which changes the villagers' lives forever. At first, the locals are happy to rub shoulders with the glitterati, enjoying the fun of being in the production and the 40 pounds a day that comes with it.
However, the stardust turns to sawdust after tragedy strikes.
Performances run from Monday to Saturday at 8pm.
Tickets, priced at £7.75, are available from the box office.

Will Buttons shape up?

Fun and learning

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday to Tuesday, December 2-6
01892 678678
www.trinitytheatre.co.uk

BUTTONS is one of the best sports elves at the North Pole. But when Santa hosts the Arctic Olympics, Buttons is convinced he will come last in every race – he's lost his lucky scarf and suddenly everything is going wrong.
Presented by the team behind last year's popular Red Nose Rocket, this year's fun-filled fest of thrills and spills for children aged three to eight will be sure to start the season's celebrations.
This Trinity production hosts colourful characters and key stage learning on a festive journey this Christmas.
Tickets cost £7.50, but schools tickets and family tickets are available.

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A taste of Kent in the glorious countryside

THE See Ho is a friendly, busy country pub which serves great beers and a vast range of home-prepared dishes.

Early-bird specials, dinners, Sunday roasts and fresh fish attract customers to the varied menu using the best local produce.

Just off the M2, the See Ho is perfect for a drink and dinner after shopping at Bluewater, and with lovely stretches of countryside and a park nearby, the pub is ideal for walkers.

Both small and large groups are catered for and the pub is particularly popular with hikers who enjoy the excellent local landscape.

The See Ho regularly book tables for up to 30 walkers to eat and drink after long stretches of enjoying the countryside.

Current top-sellers on the menu are home-made rabbit pie or steak-in-ale pie. The current two-meals-for-£10 special is also available and includes current dishes like the delicious meatloaf mash with fresh vegetables, fishcakes, chips and peas and various pasties with chips and peas or beans.

All meals are complemented by excellent beers and wines that the knowledgeable staff ensure are kept perfectly.

Fresh food at very reasonable prices is the key to the success of the venue, which is taking bookings for Christmas.

Chris Till will play live on Christmas Eve.

■ See Ho
Pear Tree Lane, Shorne DA12 3JX
Telephone: 01474 822386
chalkeyseeho@aol.com

CHEF RECOMMENDS

SEE HO: Telephone 01474 822386
STARTER: Calamari.
MAIN: Sirloin steak.
DESSERT: Apple pie and custard.

BLOOMERS: Telephone 01474 322131
STARTER: Warm goat's cheese with roasted red onion, rocket and parmesan salad.
MAIN: Baked lamb layered with a walnut-and-mushroom stuffing served with a light mint jus.
DESSERT: Spotted dick served with custard.

ANGEL AT ADDINGTON: Telephone 01732 842117
STARTER: Tomato-and-blood orange soup.
MAIN: Traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings.
DESSERT: Home-baked mince-pie cheesecake.

MAMA FEELGOODS: Telephone 01227 830830
STARTER: Home-made leek-and-potato soup.
MAIN: Slow braised beef with bubble-and-squeak mash, topped with a star of puff pastry.
DESSERT: Spiced bread-and-butter pudding with clotted cream or ice-cream.

THE HUTCH: Telephone 01227 766700
STARTER: Mixed tapas.
MAIN: Tagine of tomatoes, aubergine and olives with cous cous and home-made harrisa sauce.
DESSERT: Home-made vanilla rice-pudding with Kentish pears poached in red wine with chocolate ice-cream.

OOZING CLASS: The Cafe Taj is intent on bringing the very finest dining experience to Gravesend

Bringing West End feel to county with world-class Indian cuisine

THE Cafe Taj in Parrock Street, Gravesend, has a clear idea and concept that it wants its restaurant to achieve.

The team wants to re-create the stylish, vibrant and busy West End eatery scene but in the north Kent town.

With both its decor and menu choices, The Cafe Taj is bringing that razzle-dazzle of the capital to the Garden of England.

The restaurant is tastefully designed and is maintained to the very highest standards with its world-class Indian cusine.

Having won a Quality Food Online Award in 2006 as well as a title from the Times Food and Drink Awards in 2007, The Cafe Taj has created an excellent reputation within just eight years in business.

Being experts in both traditional and modern indian cusine, the restaurant has been asked to cater for big events all over the Continent.

Not only has the team supplied meals for the England World Cup squad at the 2006 tournament in Germany, it has also catered for The X Factor, plus celebrities such as singer Lee Ryan from Blue.

Now with two restaurants in Gravesend and one in Greenhithe, The Cafe Taj has also been featured in shows for both the BBC and ITV as the name continues to grow.

This year there is a Christmas menu for Indian enthusiasts, opening on Christmas Day from 1pm-4pm. There is also a function room for large parties looking to book a pre-Christmas meal.

As always, the Cafe Taj continues with its popular Elvis nights and provides excellent buffet evenings, every night of the week.

■ The Cafe Taj
170 -172 Parrock Street, Gravesend DA12 1ER
Telephone: 01474 365700
www.thecafetaj.co.uk

Culinary quality from across the globe

THE Avenida Restaurant in Welling offers a mouthwatering selection of Mediterranean and international cusine and has done for quite some time.

The secret of its success lies in 35 years of experience of getting things right.

Being a family-run establishment, the Avenida team prides itself in never losing touch with its customers' needs.

Featuring great evenings of live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays, The Avenida Restaurant strives to make sure that it is a great place to go for a good night out.

It offers excellent cabaret and a live three-piece band, wining, dining and dancing until 2am with an exquisite, fun and friendly atmosphere.

WIth all the ingredients for a good night's entertainment, the menu also offers the best reason to head to Avenida.

There is quality aplenty, with both traditional and modern Mediterranean dishes as well as sumptuous international cuisine with an emphasis on freshness, flavour, fun and family.

Just some of the popular favourites from the eclectic a la carte range include pan-fried tiger prawns, chicken chasseur, steaks and a number of vegetarian options.

The knowldegable chefs also offer a number of both Greek and English dishes to tingle the taste buds, as well as many other classical and cultural culinary creations from around the world.

The Avenida Restaurant is open from Tuesday to Thursday 7pm-11pm and late on Fridays and Saturdays with a 2am finish to make sure there is time for plenty of fun.

On Sunday there is a carvery available from midday to 5pm.

■ The Avenida Restaurant
83-85 Bellegrove Road, Welling DA163PG
Telephone: 0208 303 8500
www.avenidarestaurant.co.uk

HOMES

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■ Wyevale Garden Centres, Montefiore Avenue, Ramsgate CT11 8BW. 01843 592954

Sheds

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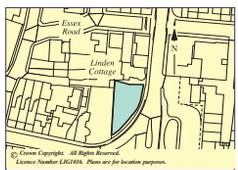

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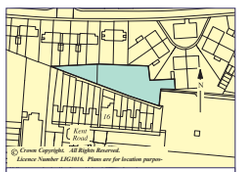

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HILLREED Homes is opening its new view home this weekend at Springhead Place, Kemsing, near Sevenoaks.

Already 40 per cent of the homes have sold off-plan and Springhead Place has just three houses remaining.

The view home, plot one, comes with carpets and curtains and occupies a position at the entrance to this private development.

Plot four is a four-bedroom detached house of 1,840 sq ft in the same style as the show home. Plot five is a detached five-bedroom house of 1,911 sq ft. Both have gardens backing on to agricultural land.

All three homes are on the market for £640,000.

For those having difficulty selling their current property, part-exchange is available, subject to usual terms and conditions. There are also discounts on plots four and five of £15,000 for a three-week exchange; £10,000 for a four-week exchange; and if it takes five weeks to exchange there is still a discount of £5,000.

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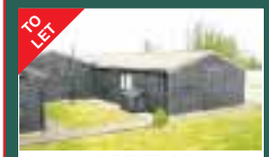
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ENCHANTING: Romney Marsh

AFTER another grey day in the office and a lousy commute, you may be dreaming of escaping from it all, but is it possible to live in the sticks and still maintain the reality of work, schools, shops and a social life?

The answer could be 'yes' if you head for Romney Marsh, a sparsely populated and beautiful wetland area in south Kent.

The Marsh is renowned for its picturesque walks and cycle rides, abundant birdlife and historic churches.

Covering some 100 square metres, stretching from a few miles to the south of Ashford towards the coast, east towards Hythe and west to the Kent/East Sussex border, the landscape encompasses coastal sand dunes, shingle banks and some of the most peaceful and traffic-free areas in the South East. A 37-minute train ride from Ashford to London St Pancras has put the area within reach of commuters.

Independent estate agency Hobbs Parker has seen an increase in enquiries for Romney Marsh and has just completed the sale of a sizeable Georgian-style house set in five acres with a guide of £975,000.

It has several other unusual and historically-interesting properties for sale in the area, such as Grade II-listed Brattle House (£695,000) in Brookland, one of the most charming Romney Marsh villages.

It is an enchanting four-bedroom house with beams and inglenook fireplaces, set within its own 1.7 acres.

Alternatively, Gun House at New Romney is a handsome Georgian house with six bedrooms, priced at £650,000.

Alex Davies, head of Hobbs Parker Country Houses, said: "People are drawn to the romance and seeming remoteness of the place, but alongside all the extraordinary history there are some exceptionally attractive period properties.

"It's an appealing package – not only do you have the proximity of the coast and being surrounded by a vast landscape, but you can tap into a strong village life and still be less than an hour from London."

Alongside Brookland and New Romney, other popular communities include Fairfield, Appledore and Ivychurch.

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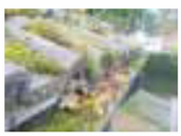

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EVOLVING: The orginal Honda Civic, launched in 1972, has seen many changes up to this present-day version

Latest Civic spaceship now hitting warp nine

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HONDA'S ninth generation Civic arrives in January – a far more grown-up car than the supermini-size 1972 original.

The Civic has long since been enlarged to compete in the family hatchback sector and the previous car's spaceship looks – inside and outside – set a pattern carried over into the latest car.

But the new car's style is more a consolidation of the starship-style rather than the quantum leap that saw the generation eight model shine against its staid predecessor.

This restraint should please far more would-be customers, likely to be split 50-50 between company car/fleet users and private buyers.

In the current economic climate, when many people want to buy British, there is also mileage for Honda in the fact that – like its CR-V SUV and Jazz supermini – the Civic is made at its Swindon UK plant.

Honda says its aims in creating the latest Civic were:

- stand-out looks with class-leading space
- unparalleled reliability – the Japanese marque always scores highly in customer satisfaction polls
- high-quality fit and finish
- quiet, clean, economical engines delivering low CO2 and running costs.

Prices start at £16,495 and engine options at launch are 1.4 or 1.8 petrol, or 2.2 diesel, with a fuel-saving stop/go system on manual versions.

A five-inch full colour dashboard screen shows mpg, stop/go status, climate and audio settings. There is also an ECON mode to save fuel as seen on the Jazz Hybrid and Insight. The range-topper for now will be the £26,595 diesel 2.2 i-DTEC EX GT, but Honda is being cagey about whether a Type-R performance flagship will follow.

Like many makers it has to weight its environmental responsibilities against the dubious hype from a performance-orientated halo car, which could cancel out PR benefits Honda has as a premier manufacturers of hybrids, which include the lively yet green CR-X petrol-electric coupé.

Standard kit on entry level Civic SE models includes that colour dashboard screen as well as 16-inch alloys, automatic air con and USB connectivity for MP3 players.

At the other end of the range in EX GT trim, buyers get keyless entry/ignition, front and rear parking sensors, bi-xenon headlights and lumbar support, panoramic glass roof, 17-inch alloys, privacy glass and auto-dimming rear view mirror.

HONDA CIVIC

Price: £16,495-26,595
Driving appeal: ★★★★ (expected)
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliabilty: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Golf

Stylish Veloster opens new door to sports sector

HYUNDAI'S earlier attempts at sporting cars have scored largely on price rather than style and ability.

However, the final incarnation of the long-running Coupé model – axed two years ago – showed the Korean marque had made huge strides in a sector where buyers are notoriously hard to please.

Hyundai is about to dive in again, and with an innovative spin; the new Veloster (from £17,995-£21,745) arriving early next year is a crisply-styled fastback with a single rear passenger door, allowing easy access to the back seats. Following a trend, the handle for this extra door is concealed in the rear window frame.

However, the real selling point is that, unlike the controversial Mini Clubman, the Veloster has its single rear door on the pavement side – far more desirable from a safety point of view, particularly for parents with small children.

Add the liftback tail and classy looks and the Veloster looks set to become a big seller and a marketing coup for Hyundai.

Power comes from a 138bhp 1.6-litre petrol with six-speed manual gearbox, or Hyundai's first dual-clutch auto/manual transmission (DCT), and it should average nearly 50mpg. Helped by a stop/start economy system, it emits137g/km of CO2, which is modest for a sporting car and attracts road tax of £115/year.

The high level of kit is what you would expect from Hyundai and includes a seven-inch TFT touch screen media centre, Bluetooth connectivity and reversing sensors and 17-inch alloys. But customers will also be able to customise the car with bigger wheels, colour inserts, panoramic sunroof or red leather interior.

On a more practical note though, the car comes with Hyundai's usual five-year/unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance package.

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2001 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 AUTO 5-dr Hatchback, 71k, Silver, Grey Cloth Trim £1,495
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1997 VAUXHALL TIGRA BERMUDA 1.4 SPORTS COUPE Metallic Green with Grey Interior £1,295

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2003 MGTF 1.6 Manual, Metallic Silver, History, 62k £2,495
1997 SAAB 900 CONVERTIBLE Red, Black Leather Trim, Manual, E/Roof, Alloys £1,495
1997 MGTF CONVERTIBLE Blue, Black Trim, Manual, Alloys ..... POA

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2002 CITROËN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 DIESEL Manual, Gold, Luxury Trim, Space and Economy ..... SOLD
2001 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 ESi Metallic Blue, Grey Leather Trim, 62k, Alloys + Bluetooth CD Radio ..... SOLD
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PX BARGINS (All cars sold with full MoT)

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2001 CITROËN XSARA 1.6 5-dr, Hatchback, Alloys, Met Green, Tax until next July ..... SOLD
2000 SUZUKI BALENO 1.6 GLX Saloon 4-dr Manual, Long Tax and MoT ..... SOLD
1999 ROVER 200 VVI 1.8 Manual, Silver, Leather, Alloys, 75k, 1 Year MoT and Tax Dec 2011, drives as new £895
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SX4 has year-round appeal

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPURRED on by recent wintry snowfalls, we booked a test drive in late 2010 for the cheapest proper 4x4 on the market – the Suzuki Jimny.

Right on cue, it snowed just as the car arrived and proved just how good the little off-roader was at coping with difficult conditions though, please note, 4x4 won't save you if you are daft enough to get yourself into a four-wheel skid.

So, having put the Jimny through its paces properly, we thought we might tempt fate again by booking the slightly bigger Suzuki SX4 in full 4x4 format – most are sold as front-wheel drive only.

This time though, the snow stayed away in what has proved to be one of the driest autumns/early winters seen for some time.

No matter though, as the SX4 proved itself in a way that the three-door Jimny never could: as a practical five-door everyday car.

The Jimny is a proper off-roader and, when you aren't battling mud or snow, you suffer a cramped cabin and basic motoring.

The SX4, on the other hand, is really a small SUV or soft-roader that will cope with most awkward situations other than yomping across a muddy field or tackling a crumbling incline, and it is unique on the UK market.

The two cars coming remotely close are the Subaru Impreza – really a family hatchback with all-wheel drive – and the Daihatsu Terios, currently unavailable since Daihatsu pulled out of the UK due to the strength of the Japanese Yen.

The basic SX4 costs from £11,995, but the 4x4 format starts at £14,900 – quite a bit more than the little Jimny (from £10,995), but worth it for that all-year round flexibility.

However, if you want the best pulling power you will have to find £16,700 for the flagship 2.0-litre diesel version tested here, though it will reward you with the best economy of the line-up, bettering even the two-wheel drive SX4 versions.

The 4x4 transmission actually gives you a two-wheel drive economy setting anyway, though most owners will leave it in 4x4 Auto mode, which is the default for most other soft-roaders anyway – this means two-wheel drive in most situations until sensors sense a loss of traction and apply extra drive to one or both rear wheels.

Finally, there is a lockable 4x4 mode for when you really do need that extra grip in mud, snow and ice.

Most of the time though, the SX4 functions well as a capacious supermini/family hatchback. It sits slightly higher than average and that gives better ground clearance, a good view out and ease of access to a spacious cabin, with good width across the back seat for three and ample leg and headroom.

If we are nit-picking then the high lip of a high-mounted boot could put some off, but there is plenty of load space with rear seats folded flat or not.

Where the car endears though is its excellent road manners; good grip – as you would expect – little body roll, and responsive steering.

If Suzuki could just add a model with more power and chassis savvy, we could have that holy grail – a true GTI off-roader.

Interior trimming is robust rather than elegant – you never get the impression anything will break, but it isn't particularly stylish or touchy-feely.

The dashboard is logically arranged but, again, workman-like rather than flashy, while the seats are comfy but not plush.

However, this is a rugged jack of all trades and, if you live out in the sticks, the SX4 really is a car for all seasons that won't break itself or the bank.

SUZUKI SX4 2.0SZ5 DDiS: PRICE £16,700

LITTLE GEM: Suzuki's SX4 is the slightly bigger cousin of the Jimny but offers the practicality of a five-door family car with the capability of four-wheel drive, allowing it to cope with the most awkward of driving conditions

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£115/year
Best rival:	Subaru Impreza

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Miserly big cat crosses States

JAGUAR has proved that its latest 2.2 diesel version of the XF is the most efficient Jag ever.

Crewed by a British team, an example of this latest XF model drove from New York to Los Angeles, averaging 62.9 mpg over 2,884 miles, taking in 11 American states plus three time zones and eight days, and needing just four fuel stops.

Sports appeal from more A1

AUDI has added a more powerful 141bhp 2.0-litre diesel to its A1 premium supermini model and offers two striking new high spec special editions – the Black and Contrast (pictured).

It offers 0-62mph in 8.2 seconds, averages nearly 70mpg, augments the existing 1.6-litre diesel motor, and is available with the Black and Contrast specials (from £17,945).

Game-changer Lexus GS due

JAPANESE premium brand Lexus launches its new generation GS model in early 2012, aiming to break German domination of the mid-size executive sector.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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06 06	**Vauxhall Astra Club 1.6 5dr** Grey	£4,995
07 57	**Vauxhall Astra Design Estate 1.8 5dr** Pannacotta	£5,995
07 57	**Vauxhall Astra Twintop Sport 1.6 2dr** Ultra Blue	£6,995
08 58	**Vauxhall Astra Breeze 1.6 5dr** Blue	£6,995
09 09	**Vauxhall Astra Breeze Plus CDTi 1.7 5dr**	£7,995
09 59	**Vauxhall Astra Active 1.4 3dr** Sovereign Silver	£8,995
10 60	**Vauxhall Astra SRi 1.4 3dr** Ultra Blue	£9,795
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11 11	**Vauxhall Astra SRi CDTi 1.7 5dr** Black Sapphire	£14,795
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11 11	**Vauxhall Astra SRi Turbo 1.6 5dr** Black Sapphire	£17,995
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10 60	**Vauxhall Meriva Exclusiv Turbo 1.4 5dr** Star Silver	£13,995
10 60	**Vauxhall Meriva Exclusiv Auto CDTi 1.7 5dr** Waterworld	£14,495
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05 05	**Toyota Avensis T3 S 1.8 5dr** Black	£3,995
05 05	**Toyota Yaris T2 1.0 3dr** Metallic Green	£2,995
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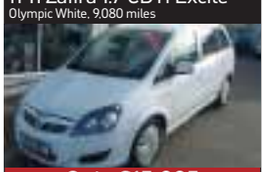

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New-look Avensis packs in latest on-board technology

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOYOTA'S company car star, the Avensis, has had a major midlife upgrade and gained many new features, but prices have been pegged or even cut.

The new-look range of saloons and estates, built at the marque's ultra-modern and number one European plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire, starts at £18,450 and arrives in showrooms next month.

By a long way the most stylish of the three Avensis generations built at Burnaston so far, the car has received minor cosmetic changes and Toyota also claims to have made the spacious cabin quieter and more comfortable, though it was no slouch in that department before.

With company car user choosers making up the bulk of sales though, one of the key features being noted are revisions to the top-selling 2.0-litre D-4D diesel engine to deliver lower emissions and better fuel economy – CO2 levels are now down to 119g/km, which translates into zero road tax in year one and £30 a year thereafter – almost absurdly low for a family-size car.

The other major draw for the company user is that Toyota has chosen this revised Avensis to launch its new Touch and Go Plus multimedia, navigation and information system including email integration – it comes as standard on flagship T Spirit models.

Apart from sat nav and iPod/MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity, the system's 6.1-inch touchscreen also contains the rear-view camera and connectivity to Google Local Search, and offers many downloadable applications.

Toyota believes the system has huge appeal to hard-working motorway-driving executives who need traffic information, email and texting, plus easy control of such features via voice recognition – particularly useful for inputting sat nav addresses while on the move.

The slightly less specc'd up Touch and Go appears as standard on all lesser models apart from the T2 entry trim.

More Soul for Korean crossover

KIA'S innovative and successful urban crossover, the Soul, has been refreshed for the 2012 model, yet remains great value from £12,495.

The makeover includes revised powertrains and, notably, six-speed gearboxes as standard to boost performance while cutting fuel consumption, emissions and costs.

The Soul's distinctive and original styling has been sharpened by changes to the grilles, lights, front bodywork and wheels. A new bumper with a wider, lower air intake changes the proportions of the car and gives it a wider stance.

Following a recent trend across its range, the Korean marque has also added more visual quality to the fixtures and fittings to match the durability that was already there.

All versions have even more equipment than before, but the range has been streamlined to Soul 1 and Soul 2, plus the Hunter and Quantum 'Soul Originals' – the latest in a rolling programme of special versions with unique styling and trim.

Kia sees the five-door car as an urban crossover – small enough to be handy in the city, but big and flexible inside for families. With its customisable looks, it is also a more practical approach to the individualism of the Mini and Fiat 500.

The Soul was launched in 2008, and immediately impressed with its good handling, but now also gets the power that it deserves in the form of a new direct-injection (GDi) petrol unit developing 138bhp – up 14bhp on the previous 1.6-litre – and a modified version of the existing diesel developing 126bhp. The latter is also available with a six-speed auto.

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Model shown is New Cruze 2.0 VCDi LTZ Hatchback
Model shown is New Captiva 2.2 VCDi LTZ
Model shown is Spark 1.2 LT

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Vehicles shown are Spark 1.2 LT, New Cruze 2.0 VCDi LTZ Hatchback and Captiva 2.2 VCDi LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £375 for Spark and £410 for Cruze and Captiva. Offer prices available on vehicles registered between 10th November 2011 and 30th November 2011, whilst stocks last. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet range: Urban: 28.2 (10.0) - 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban: 44.1 (6.4) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 36.6 (7.7) - 55.4 (5.1). CO_2 emissions 203 - 119g/km.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.4 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 231 - 98 g/km.

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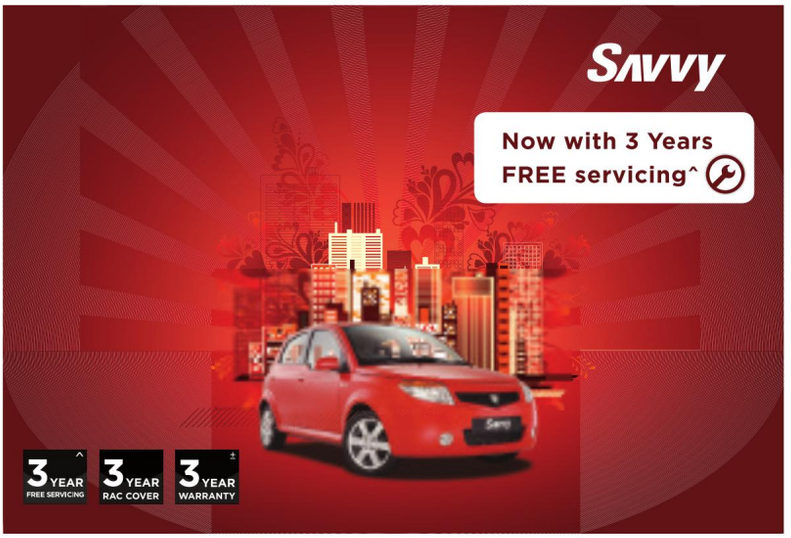

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*Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ±Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules, 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. ^FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered from 22nd September 2011 until 31st December 2011 and available for the first owner only.

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SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Diesel, 2007 07 Reg, 45,372 miles, Metallic Silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Reverse parking aid, Space saver spare wheel. Insurance Group:12 ..... **£8,995**

SAAB 9-3 1.8T Vector S, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2004 54 Reg , 97,807 miles, Metallic Silver, 2 Owners. Full Service History, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Partial leather seat trim, Reverse parking aid, Solid Paint, Space saver spare wheel, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group:12 ..... **£3,995**

SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2002 02 Reg , 101,420 miles, Black, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette/CD, Side airbags, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Electric height adjustable drivers/passangers seat, Reverse parking aid, Heated front seat. Insurance Group:17 ..... **£2,995**

SAAB 9-3 2.0T SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 51 Reg , 104,462 miles, Blue, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Cruise control, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Rear wiper. Insurance Group:13E **£1,995**

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FORD Focus 1.6 Style, 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, 2008 58 Reg , 8,000 miles, BLUE, 1 Owner. Adjustable steering column/wheel, Anti theft system, Central locking, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Driver airbag, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Full Service History, Head restraints, Folding rear seats, Park distance control, Remote locking, Body coloured bumpers, Front fog lights, PAS, Remote central locking, Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Steel wheels, Cloth seat trim, Space saver spare wheel, Audio remote control, Solid Paint. Insurance Group:6, LOW MILEAGE **£7,595**

BMW 118d SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2005 05 Reg , 78,435 miles, Grey, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, Cloth seat trim, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, PAS, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Rear wiper, Solid Paint, Reverse parking aid. Insurance Group:11 ..... **£7,195**

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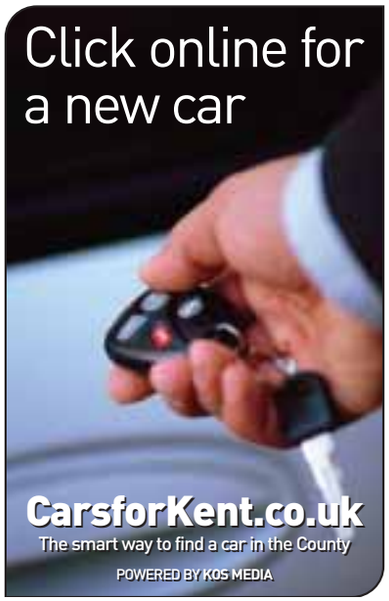

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3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
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5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by Archant KOS Media Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies Archant KOS Media Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
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16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
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e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
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23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
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All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.
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CRICKET

Mahmood vows to fire his beloved Kent to promotion and cup glory

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

AZHAR Mahmood says he is ready, willing and able to play in the county championship next season, as Kent aim for a return to Division One and he reflects on a new contract now signed, sealed and delivered.

At the age of 36 it was originally thought Mahmood would be deployed chiefly as a one-day specialist last season, but after coaxing his body through a number of four-day appearances, Kent's player of the year is eager to be part of a promotion challenge.

"I want to play four-day cricket," he said. "I've been playing four day cricket anyway and it [the previous deal] wasn't a one-day contract, it was a mutual understanding with the captain and the coach. Physically I feel great."

Mahmood, who agreed a new two-year deal with the county earlier this month, will try to maintain that level of fitness with a spell in the New Zealand Twenty20 competition for Auckland, where he'll link up with another former Kent overseas player, Paul Strang.

And while Kent's 2011 campaign was eminently forgettable, the former Surrey all-rounder at least offered supporters something to smile about, particularly in the Twenty20 competition, where he scored 485 runs at an average of 40 after being pushed up the order to number three.

His form and the relationship he enjoys with the county's staff and supporters meant it wasn't a difficult decision to sign the new deal, despite interest from elsewhere.

"It was very easy," he said. "I've spent four years with Kent and I've had a great time, so I'm quite pleased with that. I had a wonderful season."

Picture: ADY KERRY

READY: New contract and new ambition for county favourite

Mahmood isn't overly concerned about the strength of the squad, despite the high profile departures since the end of the season.

"We've lost two good players in Martin van Jaarsveld and Joe Denly who had been at the club for a very long time, but that's part of life, they've got other things to do," Mahmood said. "We've signed Michael Powell who's been a very good player with Glamorgan and hopefully we'll make one or two more signings.

"Our targets are we want to play in Division One and we missed out in the Twenty20 quarter-finals last year, so we want to represent Kent on finals day."

Nor does the ongoing lack of a replacement for departed coach Paul Farbrace worry him.

"Every player is professional," he said. "I've played county cricket for a long time and I don't really think a coach is a big issue. Every player knows his game really well, although a coach can help you with your confidence. I don't know who's coming in but hopefully it will be someone really good.

"Canterbury feels like home. Everyone really looks after you, from the tea lady, to the ground staff, the shop assistants, the chairman and the captain, they're all really helpful."

POWELL ARRIVES

KENT have signed former Glamorgan player Michael Powell on a two-year contract in a bid to boost their depleted squad.

The right-handed batsman was released at the end of Glamorgan's 2011 campaign, having made 212 first-class appearances for the Welsh county over 14 seasons. Powell has amassed 12,461 runs during his first-class career at an average of 38.34, and has 25 centuries to his name, though his career nearly ended in 2007 when he suffered life-threatening complications after having surgery to have a rib removed.

Graham Johnson, Kent's chairman of cricket, said: "He has had a very successful career with Glamorgan, and still has much to offer county cricket."

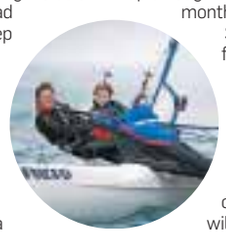
While Powell may have left Glamorgan a bit of him will remain in Wales - the offending rib was buried at Sophia Gardens.

SAILING

Riding on a wave of hope as teen sails into squad

TEENAGER Alicia Clifford has taken a giant stride towards achieving her dream of competing in the Olympic Games after she was selected for the Royal Yachting Association's national youth squad.

Clifford, 17, from Blean near Canterbury, is hoping inclusion in the Spitfire squad will be the first step towards securing a place at the 2016 Games.



The student at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School, who travels to Weymouth twice a month for training, said: "I'm really happy, it means a lot. It's quite hard work but I love sailing, it's still a lot of fun."

She was first bitten by the sailing bug at the age of two when her family took her out on a boat. Her parents Anne and Paul and brothers Alastair and Anthony and sister Louisa are all experienced sailors and she is frequently seen honing her skills off the coast of nearby Whitstable, when not in Dorset.

She has been racing since she was 11, working her way up through the ranks until this month's breakthrough, She added: "Hopefully I'd like to be selected for the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship in Ireland next summer – only one Spitfire team will be chosen to represent the country and I'll be taking part in selection events in the spring."

If all goes to plan she will look to be selected for the Olympic development squad at the end of next summer and is currently seeking sponsors from local firms to help keep her Olympic ambitions afloat.

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CROWDS: British Superbikes is one of the circuit's most popular

BSB dates for Brands

THE British Superbikes season's summer date at Brands Hatch has been shifted forward in the season to avoid a clash with the Olympic Games,

Series promoter MotorSport Vision unveiled the full calendar for the 2012 season earlier this week with the West Kingsdown track hosting both the opening, middle and concluding rounds of the 12-meeting series.

Brands will kick-start the season in its traditional Easter weekend slot on April 6-9, the mid-way point on July 20-22, before the chequered flag falls on the 12-round championship on October 12-14 with a triple header finale.

Jonathan Palmer, chief executive of MSV and Brands, said: "The calendar is the strongest ever and this is a tribute to the extraordinary health of BSB amidst tough economic conditions."

ICE SKATING

Partridge puts his skates on in search of ice glory

BRITAIN'S top ice skaters go head-to-head for glory this weekend in Sheffield with a place at the European Championships in January the juicy carrot on the end of the stick.

The senior men's contest of the British Figure Skating Championship takes place on Saturday and Sunday with Gillingham's Jono Partridge, 23, among the front runners gunning for the title and the spot in January's Europeans.

To give it added spice, the European Championship will take place in Sheffield too.

But he faces a tough fight on the ice from defending champion David Richardson, Sheffield's Jason Thompson and Dan King, Coventry's Philip Harris and Lee Valley's Luke Chilcott.

The selection process undertaken by GB's performance group is based on the skater's best international score combined with their British Championship score,

TITLE: Place at Euros in sight

multiplied by two, as a starting point with additional factors being considered to ultimately decided who will represent GB at the Europeans.

The figure skating championships got under way with novice and junior events earlier this week.

The European Figure Skating Championships will see 200 elite international skaters from 39 countries compete.

FOOTBALL

Eagles join Addicks in swooping down on supporters in the county

By Fred Atkins
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WHEN Gillingham chairman Paul Scally discovered south London rivals Charlton Athletic were to lay on subsidised coaches to whisk supporters from across Kent to the Valley in 2005 he blew a fuse.

Claiming they were "roller-coasting through Kent trying to build their customer base" and accusing them of muscling in on what he perceived as the Gills' territory, he sparked an angry war of words.

This time, though, he and the club appear to have learned a lesson. So when Crystal Palace unveiled its very own Eagles Express coach service this month, there was not a squeak, publicly at least, from Scally.

The pilot scheme will run from Canterbury on January 14, picking up fans at a number of stops on the way to the Eagles' Championship fixture with Leeds United at Selhurst Park. Costings are still to be finalised. As a comparison, Charlton offer to bus fans in and out for £7.

Palace intend to trial the scheme during the second half of the season and extend it to other areas if it proves successful.

Palace's marketing manager Sharon Lacey explained: "We did some research and found we had quite a lot of fans in Kent, Sussex and Surrey who have typically moved out of London and find it difficult to get to games."

Charlton's scheme was heavily subsidised and immediately successful, taking thousands of fans from around Kent and Sussex direct to the Valley and eliminating the long-standing problem of parking near the ground.

Although Charlton have since been relegated twice, the club still operates a cut-price service from 28 different towns and villages in the south east.

CROWD: Luring fans in through the gates to drive up match-day revenues is proving a marketing hit

Lacey says that by contrast the Eagles' pilot scheme scheme is purely designed to reduce travelling costs and make life easier for Palace supporters, and is not an attempt to "steal" supporters from Kent clubs.

"It's for our exisiting fans," she said. "It's not our intention to poach other club's fans and we're not going to do a huge advertising drive. I wouldn't anticipate any problems with Gillingham, we have good relations with them."

Palace are not the only club competiting for Kent's supporters with local sides.

At almost any main rail station in the county on a match day platforms will be lined with fans of London clubs.

The Maidstone Arsenal Supporters Club has 600 members, many of whom attend every game at the Emirates, while a group called Invicta Reds run an average of three coaches to Old Trafford for every Manchester United home game, starting from Ramsgate and calling at stops throughout the county.

CRICKET

Van Jaarsveld quits English game and heads back home

FORMER Kents cricketer Marin van Jaarsveld has shocked fans by retiring from county cricket - and pulling out of a deal to sign for rival side Leicestershire.

The 37-year-old batsman had walked out of the St Lawrence earlier this summer after six years of consistently being one of Kent's top performers.

His departure was seen as a major blow to the squad - and compounded when he appeared to have clinched a deal with Leicestershire.

But earlier this week the South African announced he would not be signing and would be leaving the UK to head back to South Africa to settle permanently.

He said: "I'm desperately sad not to be able to take up the challenge with Leicestershire.

"I've always set the highest of standards but at the age of 37 I'm beginning to show signs of fatigue, which has affected my performance.

"There's no doubt that the years of flying backwards and forwards between South Africa and England have taken their toll. So for my own benefit and peace of mind and for the sake of my young family, my wife and I have decided to settle permanently in South Africa."

Picture: ADY KERRY

OVER AND OUT: Van Jaarsveld quits

Van Jaarsveld played 110 first-class matches for Kent after being drafted in by fellow countryman Graham Ford.

■ **Meanwhile, a decision on Beckenham's future hosting Kent matches has been delayed after Bromley Council deferred a decision on plans to redevelop the ground.**

FOOTBALL

Hess drops Rooney as contract talks stall

GILLINGHAM manager Andy Hessenthaler has confirmed midfielder Luke Rooney was dropped for the impressive 2-1 away league win at Aldershot last Saturday because of an impasse over his contract negotiations.

The Gills boss told the club's official website: "His situation is that over the last few weeks we've offered him a new deal, but unfortunately we have come to loggerheads and I don't think he is going to sign our offer and so I left him out of the 18.

"I am surprised as the offer we made him I feel was very good considering how many games he has played."

Rooney, 20. sent a message of congratulations to the team after Saturday's win via website Twitter but admitted he was "devastated" that, as he put it, "I wasn't allowed to play".

Hessenthaler said Rooney's representatives were "adamant" the player would not sign the deal and that after consulting with chairman Paul Scally he decided to sideline Rooney.

Rooney's existing deal with Gillingham expires at the end of the season, though his age means Gillingham would be entitled to compensation if he joined another club.

Contrasting Rooney's situation to that of his fellow midfielder Jack Payne, Hessenthaler added: "We had one who signed a two-year extension to his contract, who has committed himself to the club until 2015. I want players who are committed."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
FOCUS
WITH **FRED ATKINS**

How value for money divides

"THE problem of getting people through the gate has been exercising football club directors for as long as the game has been played, with Crystal Palace's Eagles Express coach service merely the latest example of a club trying to put bums on seats.

In 1909, Woolwich Arsenal were worried about losing their Kent-based supporters to other London clubs because the transport links to their Plumstead ground were so awful.

There's an obvious joke in there about Southeastern trains which I'm fighting the urge to crack, but the story will certainly strike a chord with anyone who's ever tried to get to Selhurst Park.

Palace are at least showing willing however, something Kent's non-league clubs do with varying degrees of success.

They don't face the problem of transporting fans to games as most of their supporters live within a fairly short radius, but the perceived quality of the football on offer can be a deterrent.

Last season, I met a French Arsenal supporter who, in a neat role reversal of the time-sharing Brit in the Dordogne, had a second home in Margate.

He'd paid £50 for his ticket for a 0-0 draw at the Emirates, but wouldn't countenance spending a fifth of that at Hartsdown Park, because in the equivalent French division admission would be around five euros and he didn't think it offered value for money.

At the start of this season, Maidstone's directors were heavily criticised for freezing admission charges at £10 for adults following the club's relegation.

Most Stones fans understood the reasons, but among the many supporters from rival clubs to take umbrage at this perceived extortion were a contingent from Dulwich Hamlet who threatened a boycott.

The irony was that when Maidstone played Dulwich last month the game was of such a high standard that paying an 'Ayrton Senna' to get in seemed cheap. Attendance figures have vindicated Maidstone's decision.

Less than a decade ago the board of Tonbridge Angels reluctantly decided to increase admission at Longmead and at the next match fans began chanting "seven quid's a rip off."

Three years ago Dover let 2,760 fans in for nothing against Tooting, doubling their normal crowd, but a similar initiative by Sittingbourne had a minimal impact. At least they tried.

There are clubs in Kent where supporters - and reporters, who in theory can help publicise a game - are made to feel about as welcome as the Pope at Ibrox.

If you're lucky enough to belong to the latter category you would normally get in for free, but even if someone laid on a stretch limo you'd still have to pay me to go back to... well that would be telling. "

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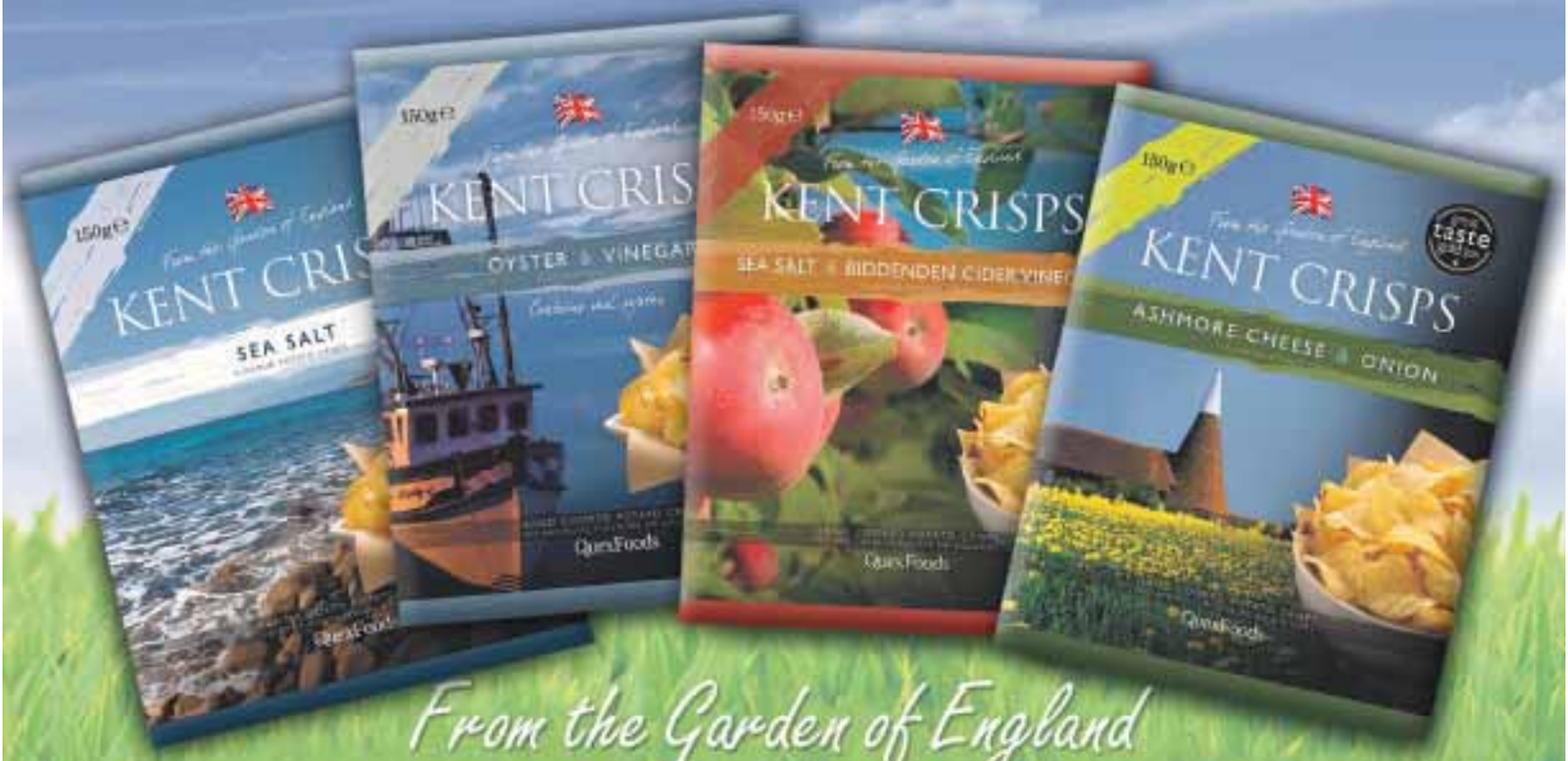

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